



## Hundreds still flooded from homes in Mississippi capital

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) —

The swollen Pearl River appeared to have crested Monday in Mississippi's capital, but authorities warned the hundreds of evacuees in the Jackson area not to rush back home until they got the all clear, and a forecast of more rain put counties further south at risk of flooding.

No injuries were reported from the major flooding in central Mississippi and southern Tennessee. But as the high water recedes, officials expect to find damaged roads and problems with water and sewage pipes. In Savannah, Tennessee, two houses slid down a muddy bluff into the Tennessee River, although its residents had fled earlier.

Continued on page 6



Water from the Pearl River floods Florence-Byram Road near Byram, Miss, Monday, Feb. 17, 2020. Authorities believe the flooding will rank as third highest, behind the historic floods of 1979 and 1983.

Associated Press

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## Pot shops turn to highway sponsor signs amid strict ad rules

**DENVER (AP)** — Cannabis companies are using a loophole in Colorado's strict limits on marijuana advertising by sponsoring state highways and putting their names on roadside signs.

Currently, 51 cannabis dispensaries, cultivators, manufacturers and edible producers sponsor roadways throughout the state, according to the Adopt a Highway Maintenance Corporation. Although they represent less than half of all organizations that participate in the Clean Colorado program, their reach spans about 198 miles (318 kilometers), or 66%, of the roads actively sponsored, The Denver Post reported. "The rules governing highway signs are in a different section than rules governing the cannabis industry," said Nico Pento, government affairs director for Boulder-based Terrapin Care Station, which operates six dispensaries in the Denver metro area. "The highway signs were a loop-



In this Feb. 6, 2020, photo, a Clean Colorado highway sign sponsored by the Northern Lights Cannabis Co. is displayed on eastbound 6th Avenue west of Sheridan Blvd. in Denver.

Associated Press

hole that was overlooked." Colorado Department of Transportation officials say the signs are not intended to be an advertising medium, but they have become a clever workaround for an industry with few other op-

tions. Oftentimes, they are strategically placed near exits where passersby can find the businesses. Colorado's rules governing how and where cannabis companies can advertise are strict to prevent

marketing messages from reaching minors. State regulators prohibit cannabis businesses from advertising on TV, radio and in print unless they can prove the audience is predominantly 21 and older. Digital and

social media platforms are even more restrictive.

Harsha Gangadharbatla, an associate professor of advertising, public relations and media design at the University of Colorado at Boulder, says that because Clean Colorado signs don't look like traditional advertisements, they might be one of the most effective ways to reach drivers.

"They're a different kind of signage on the side of the road. They tend to stick out a little bit more than billboards, so consumers do pay a little bit more attention to anything that's novel or different from the formats they're used to," he said. LivWell Enlightened Health, which operates 17 dispensaries in Colorado and Oregon, is one of the top sponsors of Colorado roads, paying for cleanup on 19 miles (30 kilometers). Mike Lord, the company's director of business development, said the program spreads brand awareness while also making a positive impact. □

## Jeff Bezos commits \$10 billion to fight climate change



In this Sept. 19, 2019, file photo, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos speaks during a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington.

Associated Press

By **JOSEPH PISANI**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — Ama-

zon founder Jeff Bezos said Monday that he plans to

spend \$10 billion of his own fortune to help fight climate change.

Bezos, the world's richest man, said in an Instagram post that he'll start giving grants this summer to scientists, activists and nonprofits working to protect Earth.

"I want to work alongside others both to amplify known ways and to explore new ways of fighting the devastating impact of climate change," Bezos said in the post.

Amazon, the company Bezos runs, has an enormous carbon footprint. Last year, Amazon officials said the company would

work to have 100% of its energy use come from solar panels and other renewable energy by 2030.

The online retailer relies on fossil fuels to power planes, trucks and vans in order to ship billions of items all around the world. Amazon workers in its Seattle headquarters have been vocal in criticizing some of the company's practices, pushing it to do more to combat climate change.

Bezos said in the post Monday that he will call his new initiative the Bezos Earth Fund. An Amazon spokesman confirmed that Bezos will be using his own money

for the fund.

Despite being among the richest people in the world, Bezos only recently became active in donating money to causes as other billionaires like Bill Gates and Warren Buffett have done. In 2018, Bezos started another fund, committing \$2 billion of his own money to open preschools in low-income neighborhoods and give money to nonprofits that help homeless families.

Bezos, who founded Amazon 25 years ago, has a stake in the company that is worth more than \$100 billion. □





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## Trial to begin over Arkema chemical plant fire during Harvey

By JUAN A. LOZANO

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Hurricane Harvey's historic flooding in 2017 overwhelmed power systems at Arkema Inc.'s chemical plant in suburban Houston, eventually causing organic peroxides made at the facility to catch fire and explode, sending noxious black smoke into the air. The blaze forced the evacuation of more than 200 residents from the area and sent 21 people, including first responders, to the hospital. Many who live in the town of Crosby near the plant said they were sickened by the toxic mix of chemicals that spewed into the air and have since sued the company.

Arkema said the fire was caused by an act of God, Harvey, which dumped nearly 50 inches (127 centimeters) of rain in parts of the Houston area and caused 36 deaths locally. But prosecutors say Arkema bears criminal responsibility for the toxic cloud released by the blaze because it failed to properly prepare for the storm.

The Pennsylvania-based company, which is a subsidiary of a French chemical manufacturer, and three of its executives are set to stand trial in Houston this week in a case that legal experts say will be a challenge for prosecutors to win.

Opening statements are expected to begin Wednesday or Thursday and the trial could last up to six weeks.

Prosecutors have brought two different charges against Arkema and its employees.

The company, CEO Richard Rowe and plant manager Leslie Comardelle are accused of "recklessly" releasing chemicals into

the air due to the fire. The charge carries a fine of up to \$1 million against the company and prison terms of up to five years for Rowe and Comardelle.

Arkema and its vice president of logistics, Michael Keough, each face a felony assault charge for allegedly misrepresenting the danger that the unstable chemicals at the plant posed to the community, leading to the injury of two deputies. If convicted, the company could be fined and Keough could face up to 10 years in prison.

Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg has said the indictments were "a wake-up call to companies that would ... ignore best practices in safety and put our communities at risk."

Rusty Hardin, an attorney for Arkema, said the charges were an "an unprecedented and outrageous attempt to criminalize a natural disaster."

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board in 2018 said Arkema crews worked "to the best of their ability" to keep equipment that stabilized its organic peroxides, which are used to make such things as plastic resins, from losing power. But Arkema didn't consider flooding of safety systems "a credible risk," even though the plant was inside flood zones and its insurance company warned in 2016 that it was at risk.

Prosecutors could have a difficult time as they would have to show the actions by Arkema and its executives were willful and "so reckless about what you're doing that it's as if you intended it," said Jonathan Adler, a law professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

David Kwok, an associate law professor at the University of Houston Law Cen-



In this Sept. 1, 2017, file photo, smoke rises from the Arkema Inc. owned chemical plant in Crosby, near Houston, Texas.

Associated Press

ter, said prosecutors could have one advantage with jurors.

"Often times, the inference that juries draw is that if the harm is so great, how could

it be that someone did not recognize the risk of that occurring?" Kwok said. □



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## 2020 Watch: Who can show strength with voters of color?

By **STEVE PEOPLES**

**AP National Political Writer**

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Presidential politics move fast. What we're watching heading into a new week on the 2020 campaign:

Days to Nevada caucuses:  
5

Days to general election:  
260

### THE NARRATIVE

With Iowa and New Hampshire behind them, the Democrats' 2020 field lurches toward a decidedly more diverse set of voters and, with them, huge new tests for the leading candidates. After winning (or tying) in Iowa and in New Hampshire, Bernie Sanders is looking to Latinos to build a delegate lead that could make him difficult to catch after Super Tuesday. Pete Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar are fighting to prove their embarrassing polling numbers with people of color don't reflect reality on the ground. And it's put-up-or-shut-up time for Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren, who need a strong showing to prove they still belong in the race. Oh, and if Mike Bloomberg qualifies for Wednesday's debate, he'll be forced to perform under the brightest lights of his career.

### THE BIG QUESTIONS

Who can show strength with voters of color? Biden's shockingly bad finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire have forced voters and pundits alike to question their underlying assumption about the former vice president's strength with people of color. Like most Democratic primary voters, minority voters care most about picking someone who can defeat President Donald Trump. And



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., makes a point during a campaign stop late Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, in Denver.

Associated Press

Biden certainly hasn't inspired confidence on that front. Can anyone take advantage? On paper, Buttigieg and Klobuchar have the most to gain as black and brown voters weigh in. And Sanders is looking to Latinos to prove he, not Biden, is best positioned to assemble a winning coalition. The question of minority support is perhaps the most significant unknown in the 2020 contest. And Nevada will begin to answer it on Saturday.

Will the elephant be in the room?

Bloomberg has risen in the polls and become one of Washington's favorite candidates largely on the strength of his saturation level TV ads, resume and bank account. If he qualifies for Wednesday's debate — he needs one more show of strength in polling — he will

be forced to perform on a debate stage far grander than when he was running for mayor of New York. He is the untested newcomer, so look for his rivals to go after him early and often. Even before new questions surfaced about allegations of sexual harassment at his company, the 78-year-old billionaire former Republican had a lot to prove. Will we see another caucus meltdown?

After a drama-free primary election in New Hampshire, we're back to another quirky caucus system in Nevada run by a state political party. Tensions are understandably high given the caucus disaster in Iowa (which STILL hasn't reported final results two weeks later). The Nevada State Democratic Party abandoned its plans to use an app like the one that

caused trouble in Iowa and has scrambled to come up with a new system to tabulate results. Party officials insist they're confident about the changes. We'll forgive you if you're skeptical. Does the moderate muddle get worse?

Some establishment-minded Democrats tell us they're increasingly concerned that the glut of center-left Democrats is essentially clearing the way for Sanders to win the nomination. There are at least four prominent moderates fighting to emerge as the Sanders alternative: Buttigieg, Klobuchar, Biden and Bloomberg. And as we saw in 2016 with Trump, the longer they stay in the race and split up the anti-Sanders vote the easier it will be for Sanders to win contests with a relatively low percentage of the vote. Re-

member: He needed only 26% to win New Hampshire. Democrats who prefer a center-left nominee need the moderate lane to consolidate in a hurry, although it would be a surprise to see any of the leading moderate candidates get knocked out in Nevada.

Will Trump's turnout machine keep rolling?

There is no serious primary contest on the Republican side, but Trump found a way to generate extraordinary Republican turnout in Iowa and New Hampshire this month, shattering recent incumbent presidents' turnout totals. Trump has hosted local rallies before each of the first two contests, as he will do in Nevada later this week. Yet we suspect the turnout has more to do with the Trump campaign's vaunted data operation, which appears to be light years ahead of where it was four years ago. Either way, a third consecutive strong showing would be cause for concern for Democrats who have claimed a consistent enthusiasm advantage in the Trump era so far.

### THE FINAL THOUGHT

It's later than you think in the Democrats' 2020 nomination fight. By the end of Super Tuesday, in just 15 days, more than one third of all delegates will be awarded. Smart campaign operatives tell us that delegate allocation rules will make it extremely difficult for anyone to catch a candidate who emerges from Super Tuesday with a significant lead. That means that absent a contested convention, the Democratic primary could be effectively over far sooner than any of the candidates will admit. □



# Va. lawmakers reject assault weapon ban

By ALAN SUDERMAN  
Associated Press

**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)** — Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's push to ban the sale of assault weapons failed on Monday after some of his fellow Democrats balked at the proposal.

Senators voted to shelve the bill for the year and ask the state crime commission to study the issue, an outcome that drew cheers from a committee room packed with gun advocates.

Four Democrats — most of them moderates — joined Republicans in Monday's committee vote, rejecting legislation that would have prohibited the sale of certain semiautomatic firearms, including popular AR-15 style rifles, and banned the possession of magazines that hold more than 12 rounds.

The bill was a top priority for Northam, who has campaigned heavily for a broad package of gun-control measures. The governor's spokeswoman, Alena Yarmosky, said he's disappointed with the result but determined to continue to press for the measure. "We will be back next year," she said.

David Majure, a gun-rights supporter who attended the committee hearing, said he's glad about Monday's results but not convinced the bill is dead for the year.

"I'm happy about it, but I don't trust them," he said. Virginia is the current epicenter of the country's heated debate over guns, as a new Democratic majority seeks to enact strict new limits.

Democrats ran heavily on gun control during last year's legislative elections when they flipped control of the General Assembly for the first time in more than two decades.

But gun owners, especially

in rural communities, have pushed back hard. Last month, tens of thousands of guns-rights activists from around the country flooded the Capitol and surrounding area in protest, some donning tactical gear and carrying military-style rifles. And more than 100 counties, cities and towns have declared themselves Second Amendment sanctuaries, vowing to oppose any new "unconstitutional restrictions" on guns.

The proposed assault weapon ban has received the most opposition. Gun owners have accused the governor and others of wanting to confiscate commonly owned guns and accessories from law-abiding gun owners. Northam and his allies have said repeatedly they do not want to confiscate guns, but argued that banning new sales of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines would help prevent mass murders.

"This bill will save lives," said Democratic Del. Mark Levine, who sponsored the legislation.

Earlier proposals to ban possession of AR-15-style rifles or to require owners to register them with state police have been scrapped. The governor had hoped a watered-down version would win over enough Democratic moderates for passage.

But moderate Democrats in the state Senate have said for weeks they are uncomfortable passing legislation that would affect so many current gun owners.

An estimated 8 million AR-style guns have been sold since they were introduced to the public in the 1960s. The weapons are known as easy to use, easy to clean and easy to modify with a variety of scopes, stocks and rails.

Lawmakers voted to table the bill Monday with little



This Monday an. 20, 2020 file photo shows pro gun demonstrators holding signs in front of the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond, Va.

Associated Press

debate, while noting that there was confusion over what types of guns would constitute an assault weapon. "There are obviously a lot of questions about definitions in this bill. Definitions do matter," said Democratic Sen. Creigh Deeds.

The Senate has now rejected three of the governor's eight gun-control measures. Moderate Democrats have already voted

with Republicans to kill a bill that would make it a felony to "recklessly leave a loaded, unsecured firearm" in a way that endangers a minor, and a bill that would require gun owners to report the loss or theft of a gun to police.

Lawmakers in both the House and Senate have already advanced several other gun-control measures and should finalize

passage in the coming days. Those bills include limiting handgun purchases to once a month; universal background checks on gun purchases; allowing localities to ban guns in public buildings, parks and other areas; and a red flag bill that would allow authorities to temporarily take guns away from anyone deemed to be dangerous to themselves or others. □

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**Continued from front**

"Please do not move back into your neighborhood or into your home until authorities and officials give you the OK to do so," Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves said at a news conference.

A near-record rainy winter has forced authorities to release water from swollen reservoirs, potentially worsening the flooding for those living downstream.

"It is a chess match we're playing with Mother Nature," said Jim Hopson, spokesman for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The Pearl River appeared to crest at just under 37 feet (11.3 meters), Reeves said. It is forecast to fall below major flood stage at 36 feet (11 meters) around midnight Tuesday, although more problems could arise if rains in the next few days are heavier than forecast. "We as a state are not in the clear yet," Reeves said. The Pearl's highest recorded crest was 43.2 feet on April 17, 1979. The second-highest level occurred May 5, 1983, when the river rose to 39.58 feet.

Reeves thanked residents for heeding evacuation orders. Only 16 search-and-rescue missions were needed, he said, even though as many as 1,000 homes were flooded.

One of those homes belongs to Chris Sharp, who had enough time to find an 18-wheeler, load it with his possessions and drive away Friday from the house his parents bought in the



**This drone photo provided by Hardin County Fire Department, Savannah, Tenn. on Feb. 15, 2020, shows the landslide on Chalk bluff on the Tennessee River. Authorities say two homes were destroyed when a hillside collapsed near a swollen river in western Tennessee.**

**Associated Press**

1970s. The house was undated in those previous two flood years.

On Monday, he tried to go back with a boat, but a police officer turned him away.

"All you can do is just sit back and watch," Sharp said by phone from his brother's nearby house.

He expects several inches of water in his home, and this flood finally has Sharp considering whether his family should move. The home isn't covered by flood insurance because he said the cost has grown too expensive in recent years.

"I've been through it before, so I kind of knew what to do," Sharp said, giving a resigned laugh. "But there's a bunch of people who didn't do anything."

Elsewhere in Jackson, residents paddled canoes,

kayaks and small fishing boats to check on their houses, giving lifts to other neighbors. Some were able to enter their homes, while others peeked into the windows to check on damage inside. Floodwaters lapped at mailboxes, street signs and cars that had been left in driveways.

The momentary break in the rain enabled water levels at the Barnett Reservoir upriver of the capital to stabilize, but officials repeated their warnings to pay attention to evacuation orders, check on road closures before traveling and stay off any flooded roads.

Mississippi emergency management officials said Sunday that they had received preliminary damage reports from 11 counties connected with the severe weather that began

on Feb. 10.

River gauges in four states from South Carolina west to Mississippi are reporting moderate flooding, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Forecasters predict more rain across the Southeast this week. It shouldn't be as heavy as previous weeks, but with lakes and reservoirs nearing capacity, it won't take a deluge to require authorities to release more water.

Dramatic video posted by a Tennessee fire department showed the impact near Savannah: Two houses tumbled down a bluff over the Tennessee River, while many others have been swamped to their rooftops, as entire neighborhoods disappear in muddy water below the Tennessee Valley Authority's Pickwick

Reservoir. Dozens of other homes in more low-lying areas were swamped, the department's drone video showed.

"It absolutely kills you, knowing that" houses are getting destroyed downstream from the dam, the TVA's Hopson told The Associated Press on Monday. "We have engineers on duty 24-7 trying to figure out what's the most effective way to move this water downstream with the least impact. They feel it. I feel it." February's rains have been "400 percent of normal, and we have more coming in this week. It's kind of a never-ending battle," Hopson added.

The Pickwick is the next-to-last dam in the TVA's system, and all the water from a river basin stretching into Virginia and Georgia has to flow through it before reaching the Ohio River and then the Mississippi. Water levels behind upstream tributary dams used to contain the flooding have risen as much as 40 feet this month, but even then, the Pickwick was releasing 2.36 million gallons per second Monday, down only slightly from 2.5 million gallons per second Sunday night, Hopson said.

"Mother Nature is really the one in charge — we simply try to manage what Mother Nature gives us, to minimize the impacts along the 652-mile Tennessee River and its thousands of miles of tributaries and streams," Hopson said. □

## Oregon wrestles with building facilities in tsunami zones



**In this July 22, 2019, file photo, Oregon State University's Marine Studies Building, which is under construction in a tsunami inundation zone, is viewed from the Yaquina Bay Bridge in Newport, Ore.**

**Associated Press**

**By ANDREW SELSKY**

**SALEM, Ore. (AP)** — Experts say the big one is coming to the Pacific Northwest: a massive earthquake that will cause buildings and bridges to collapse and unleash a tsunami that will devastate the coast.

But, doubling down on its decision last year to allow the construction of critical facilities in tsunami inundation zones, the Oregon Legislature appears headed to approve building standards for those facilities, like police and fire stations. The House Committee on Natural Resources last week ap-

proved the measure by a 6-1 vote, sending it to the House floor for a vote.

A leading earthquake expert, and the lone dissenting voter, says lawmakers are making a big mistake.

"I don't think that we should have ever opened up tsunami inundation zones to important infrastructure like police, fire stations and so forth. So that's why I'll be voting no for the bill," Rep. Chris Gorsek, a Democrat from the Portland suburb of Troutdale, told the committee.

Most other countries in the world prone to tsunamis

have a land-use philosophy in which construction of certain structures are banned depending on their proximity to tsunami inundation zones, said Chris Goldfinger, an Oregon State University professor and an earthquake geologist.

Rep. David Brock Smith, a Republican from the coastal town of Port Orford, tried to convince Gorsek to reconsider his vote by pointing out that there currently are no building standards for critical facilities in the tsunami zone, and that this bill provides them. □



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## Eccentric millionaire Durst faces trial in friend's killing

By **BRIAN MELLEY**  
Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — There is almost no physical evidence connecting New York real estate heir Robert Durst to the slaying of his best friend in Los Angeles 20 years ago.

What does link him to the killing of Susan Berman, though, is a cryptic note sent to police with her address and one word: "CA-DAVER."

The slip of paper intended to lead authorities to her lifeless body in December 2000 was penned by Durst. His lawyers have admitted as much. Durst himself has said more than once that only the killer or someone involved in the shooting could have written it.

Prosecutors intend to use the note and a web of circumstantial evidence to put Durst behind bars for three killings he's suspected of committing over nearly four decades. They will be up against a legal team that won Durst's acquittal in one of those deaths.

"Our defense is, one, he didn't do it, and, two, they can't prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he did it," defense lawyer David Chesnoff said. "It is a highly circumstantial case and we will have strong responses to explain the circumstances."

Jury selection begins Wednesday in a case built around a story so sensational it inspired a feature film starring Ryan Gosling as Durst and a six-part documentary on his life that helped lead to his arrest.

Durst, 76, the eccentric son of a late prominent New York real estate develop-

er, has pleaded not guilty. Said to be worth \$100 million, and having jumped bail before, Durst has been awaiting trial in a California jail.

Suspicion has dogged Durst since his wife vanished in a New York suburb in 1982, a mystery that brought not only attention from the city's tabloids, but The New York Times. Berman was Durst's unofficial spokeswoman at the time and prosecutors said she helped him cover his tracks. No has ever been charged in the wife's disappearance and presumed killing.

Durst was back in the news following his arrest in October 2001 on charges he murdered his elderly neighbor in a \$300-a-month rooming house Galveston, Texas. Prosecutors say he fled New York and disguised himself as a mute woman to elude possible arrest in his wife's suspected killing.

While Durst is only charged with one count of murder in Berman's killing, prosecutors plan to show he knocked her off Dec. 23, 2000, to keep her from telling police what she knew about the disappearance of Kathleen "Kathie" Durst. They will introduce evidence that he killed and dismembered Morris Black in Galveston because the elderly neighbor had discovered his true identity and Durst feared he would inform police of his whereabouts.

"Kathie's death was the impetus for all of the tragic events that happened afterward," prosecutors said in court papers. They said Durst "devised and car-



In this Dec. 21, 2016 file photo, Robert Durst sits in a courtroom in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

ried out a diabolical plan to cover up the killing of his wife which ultimately cost two other people their lives."

Kathleen Durst's body was never found, though she's officially been declared dead. Black's dismembered remains were cast out to sea in garbage bags by Durst, who was cleared in the killing after testifying he shot the man in self-defense. Berman, 55, the daughter of a Las Vegas mobster, was found face down in her Los Angeles home in a pool of blood. She had been shot point-blank in the back of the head.

Durst's arrest in Berman's killing came five years ago in New Orleans on the eve of the final installment of "The Jinx: The Life and Deaths

of Robert Durst" documentary on HBO. The finale contained a made-for-TV gotcha when filmmakers confronted Durst with a letter they unearthed that he had once written to Berman that contained nearly identical block-letter writing as the so-called cadaver note. Beverly Hills was misspelled the same way in both: "BEVERLEY."

Durst had denied penning the cadaver note, which he acknowledged "only the killer could have written," but couldn't distinguish between the two.

He blinked, burped and put his head in his hands before denying being the killer. After the interview, he went to use a toilet unaware he was still wearing a microphone. Filmmakers didn't realize until two years later

as they were editing the film that they captured audio of him in the bathroom. The film ends with Durst's voice: "You're caught! What the hell did I do? Killed them all, of course."

But what sounds like a confession was actually a result of editing. Durst said all three of those sentences, but not in that order and interspersed with seemingly unintelligible or unrelated remarks, according to court records. Placed in their proper context, as jurors are likely to hear, will make them less of the bombshell that struck viewers.

Defense lawyers have said the filmmakers deceived Durst and were acting as government agents, providing evidence they unearthed to police. □





Former British Prime Minister Theresa May speaks at the Global Women's Forum in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Monday, Feb. 17, 2020.

Associated Press

## Women in politics: Theresa May recounts 'sticky tape' moment

By **AYA BATRAWY**

Associated Press

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — Former British Prime Minister Theresa May said Monday that early on in her political career, she vowed never to think that being a woman held her back.

"Don't think that you don't get something because you're a woman," she told an audience of mostly women at the Global Women's Forum Dubai.

Still, there were times when being a woman head of state was — well, sticky.

May recounted one such moment. She was on a British Air Force flight, heading to a dinner and having to change into evening attire. There were no changing facilities on board but the staff told her not to worry.

"They took up me into the cockpit, there with two pilots, and I'm thinking 'really?'," she said.

"A chap comes along with sticky tape and a sheet, and he stuck it up behind the pilots and says: 'There you go, you can change behind that'," she said, to laughter and applause from the audience.

May, who became the second female British prime minister in 2016, af-

ter Margaret Thatcher, was speaking on stage with the United Arab Emirates' ambassador to the United Nations, Lana Nusseibeh.

Nusseibeh shared her own "embarrassing" anecdote, saying that once while trying to keep up with the UAE's foreign minister on the streets of New York, she got her heel stuck in a gutter and it broke off. She did her best to keep up.

"Men, frankly, don't run in heels," Nusseibeh said.

May also spoke about a type of boys-club culture that existed when she first entered the House of Commons as a member of parliament in the late 1990s, with "a huge emphasis on the men sort-of drinking together and getting together into groups."

"Some of the women felt they had to join that, and I didn't," May said. "I wanted to do it the way I wanted to do it. So, I did it my way. I was myself and, hey, I was prime minister."

May stepped down as Conservative leader last year, leaving behind a legacy as a prime minister who for three years faced the difficult process of trying to get Britain out of the European Union with stubborn determination. □



An Imperial guard wearing a face mask stands in the snow outside the Gyeongbok Palace, the main royal palace during the Joseon Dynasty in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Feb. 17, 2020.

Associated Press

## China reports 1,886 new virus cases, death toll up by 98

Mainland China reported 1,886 new virus cases and 98 more deaths for a total of 1,868 in its update Tuesday, following a report that 80% of cases have been mild, prompting guarded optimism from health officials.

The latest figures come after health officials in China published the first details on nearly 45,000 cases of infection with the coronavirus that originated there, saying more than 80% have been mild and new ones seem to be falling since early this month.

A total of 72,436 cases have been reported in mainland China as of Tuesday, although a spike in recent cases was due to a broader definition in the hardest-hit region based on doctors' diagnoses before laboratory tests were completed.

Monday's report from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention gives the World Health Organization a "clearer picture of the outbreak, how it's developing and where it's headed," WHO's director-general said at a news conference.

"It's too early to tell if this reported decline will continue. Every scenario is still on the table," Tedros Adha-

nom Ghebreyesus said.

China may postpone its annual congress in March, its biggest political meeting of the year, to avoid travel while the disease is still spreading. The standing committee for the National People's Congress will meet Feb. 24 to deliberate on a postponement of the meeting due to start March 5.

The new disease, called COVID-19, first emerged in December in Wuhan, the capital of central China's Hubei province, and has spread to more than two dozen other countries.

The new study reports on 44,672 cases confirmed in China as of Feb. 11. The virus caused severe symptoms such as pneumonia in 14% of them and critical illness in 5%.

The fatality rate for these confirmed cases is 2.3% — 2.8% for males versus 1.7% for females.

That's lower than for SARS and MERS, which are caused by two similar viruses, but COVID-19 ultimately could prove more deadly if it spreads to far more people than the others did. Ordinary flu has a fatality rate of 0.1% yet kills hundreds of thousands because it infects millions each year.

The COVID-19 cases in-

clude relatively few children, and the risk of death rises with age. It's higher among those with other health problems — more than 10% for those with heart disease, for example, and higher among those in Hubei province versus elsewhere in China.

Cases seem to have been declining since Feb. 1, but that could change as people return to work and school after the Chinese holidays, the report warns. Beijing has sought to forestall that by extending the Lunar New Year holiday, imposing tight travel restrictions and demanding 14 days off self-quarantine for anyone returning from outside their immediate region.

Hundreds of cases have been confirmed outside China, with a significant number on a cruise ship quarantined at a port near Tokyo. Japanese officials on Monday confirmed 99 more people were infected on the Diamond Princess, bringing the total to 454. The Health Ministry said it has now tested 1,723 people on the ship, which had about 3,700 passengers and crew aboard. Outside China, the ship has the largest number of cases of COVID-19. □



# U.K. grapples with severe floods, storm death toll rises to 3

By **DANICA KIRKA and JAN M. OLSEN**

**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — Britain issued severe flood warnings Monday, advising of life-threatening danger after Storm Dennis dumped weeks' worth of rain in some places. A woman was found dead after being swept away by the floodwaters, the storm's third confirmed victim.

To the east, Dennis' gale-force winds also left nine people injured in Germany as their vehicles crashed into broken trees littering roads and train tracks. Flooding and power outages were reported elsewhere in northern Europe. By Monday evening, Britain's Environment Agency issued seven severe flood warnings in the central English counties of Herefordshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire. Another 200 lower-level flood warnings were also in place, meaning that flooding was expected.

Some 480 flood warnings and alerts were issued across England on Monday, the highest number on record, the agency said.

The storm's confirmed death toll rose to three as West Mercia Police said a body had been found in

the search for a 55-year-old woman who had been missing near Tenbury in Worcestershire since Sunday.

A man pulled from the water in the same incident was airlifted to a hospital, where he remains in stable condition, police said.

The weather system brought winds of more than 145 kph (90 mph) and up to 150 millimeters (6 inches) of rain to Britain over the weekend. And the tumult is not over.

"We expect disruptive weather into the middle of this week bringing a significant flood risk for the West Midlands, and there are flood warnings in place across much of England," said Toby Willson, Executive Director of Operations at Britain's Environment Agency.

Forecasters said river levels in parts of northern England had yet to reach their peak. In the northern England city of York, authorities were piling up more than 4,000 sandbags as the River Ouse continued to rise. It's expected to peak on Tuesday.

Other residents in Wales and western England were cleaning up Monday after the storm flooded roads, railways, homes and busi-



**A member of the public is rescued after flooding in Nantgarw, Wales, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

nesses and disrupted travel across Britain. Some told stories of fleeing for their lives.

Jeanette Cox, 68 and her daughter Rachel woke up to the sound of water in their home in the Welsh village of Nantgarw, near Cardiff, about at 4 a.m. Sunday. Cox said the only object that survived downstairs was her wedding day photograph that she had kept on a windowsill. Her husband Bill died from cancer in 2009.

"It was pitch black," she

said. "All you could hear was the water running. I've never seen anything like it. I was very frightened."

Britain's environment secretary said climate change was making extreme weather events more common. But Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative government denied it was unprepared for such storms.

"We'll never be able to protect every single household, just because of the nature of climate change and the fact that these weather

events are becoming more extreme, but we've done everything that we can do with a significant sum of money," Environment Secretary George Eustice said. In Germany, at least nine people were injured in weather-related car accidents as high winds brought trees down onto roads and train tracks.

A commuter train with 67 passengers also crashed into a fallen tree in the western German city of Dortmund, but nobody was injured. □

## U.S. House speaker Pelosi warns allies against using Huawei

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — No NATO ally should succumb to the temptation of letting Chinese tech giant Huawei into their next-generation cellular networks, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Monday at Allied headquarters, turning U.S. opposition to Huawei into a bipartisan effort.

Pelosi said the invasion of privacy that would result from having Huawei integrated into Europe's 5G communication networks would be "like having the state police, the Chinese state police, right in your pocket."

She insisted such technology was far too sensitive

to turn to over to Chinese interests, even though they can deliver such technology cheaper, thanks to the fact that the company relied on Western know-how to build its systems.

"While some people say that it's cheaper to do Huawei — well yeah — it's a People's Liberation Army initiative using reversed engineering from Western technology," Pelosi, the senior Democratic lawmaker, told reporters in Brussels. "So, of course it's going to be cheaper to put on the market. And if it's cheaper, then they get the market share and then they (China) bring in their autocracy

of lack of privacy."

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has also raised national security concerns about Huawei, the world's largest telecommunications equipment manufacturer, and is aggressively lobbying Western allies to bar the company from their wireless, high-speed networks.

Trump administration officials, including Cabinet secretaries, say Huawei can give the Chinese government backdoor access to data, allegations that the company rejects.

The U.S. has been trying to have European nations ban the gear from next-



**Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., center, speaks during a media conference after a meeting at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Monday, Feb. 17, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

generation cellular networks, but countries are shying away from banning it altogether. Britain, notably, announced last month that it would allow Huawei to participate in certain non-sensitive areas of its

networks.

Pelosi warned allies not to cave in to Chinese pressure to take Huawei.

"You cannot sell the privacy of the people of your country down the river," Pelosi said. □



# Leaked data shows China's Uighurs detained due to religion

**BEIJING (AP)** — When a Chinese government mass detention campaign engulfed Memtimin Emer's native Xinjiang region three years ago, the elderly Uighur imam was swept up and locked away, along with three of his sons.

Now, a leaked database exposes in extraordinary detail the main reasons for the detentions of Emer, his three sons, and hundreds of others in their neighborhood: Their religion and their family ties.

The database profiles the internment of 311 individuals with relatives abroad in Karakax County, and lists information on more than 2,000 of their relatives, neighbors and friends. Each entry includes the detainee's name, address, national identity number, detention date and location, along with a dossier on their family, religious and community background, the reason for detention, and a decision on whether to release them.

Taken as a whole, the database offers the fullest view yet into how Chinese officials decided who to put into and let out of detention camps, as part of a crackdown that has locked away more than a million ethnic minorities, most of them Muslims.

The database shows that the state focused on religion as a reason for detention — not just political extremism, as authorities claim, but ordinary activities such as praying or attending a mosque. It shows that people with detained relatives are themselves more likely to end up in a camp, criminalizing entire families like Emer's in the process.

"It's very clear that religious practice is being targeted," said Darren Byler, a University of Colorado researcher studying Xinjiang. "They want to fragment society, to pull the families apart and make them much more vulnerable to retraining and reeducation."

The Xinjiang regional government did not respond to faxes requesting comment. Asked whether Xinjiang is



In this Nov. 4, 2017, file photo, Uighur security personnel patrol near the Id Kah Mosque in Kashgar in western China's Xinjiang region.

Associated Press

targeting religious people and their families, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said "this kind of nonsense is not worth commenting on."

The Chinese government has said in the past that the detention centers are for voluntary job training, and that it does not discriminate based on religion.

China has struggled for decades to control Xinjiang, where the native, predominantly Muslim Uighurs have long resented Beijing's rule. After militants set off bombs at a train station in Xinjiang's capital in 2014, President Xi Jinping launched a so-called "People's War on Terror", turning Xinjiang into a digital police state.

The leak of the database follows the release in November of a classified blueprint. Obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, which includes the AP, the blueprint shows the camps are in fact forced ideological and behavioral re-education centers run in secret. The database comes from sources in the Uighur exile

community, and does not spell out which government department issued it or for whom. The detainees listed come from Karakax County, a traditional settlement on the edge of Xinjiang's Taklamakan desert where more than 97 percent of its roughly 650,000 residents are Uighur. The list was corroborated through interviews with former Karakax residents, identity verification tools, and other lists and documents.

The database shows that cadres compile dossiers on detainees called the "three circles", encompassing their relatives, community, and religious background. The detainees and their families are then classified by rigid categories. Households are designated as "trustworthy" or "not trustworthy". Families have "light" or "heavy" religious atmospheres, and the database keeps count of how many relatives of each detainee are locked in prison or sent to a "training center".

Officials used these categories to determine how

suspicious a person was — even if they hadn't committed any crimes.

Reasons listed for internment include "minor religious infection," "disturbs other persons by visiting them without reasons," "relatives abroad," or "thinking is hard to grasp."

Former student Abdullah Muhammad described Emer as one of the most respected imams in the region. He fed the hungry, bought coal for the poor, and treated the sick with free medicine.

But though Emer gave Party-approved sermons, he refused to preach Communist propaganda, Muhammad said, eventually running into trouble with authorities. He was stripped of his position as an imam in 1997.

Though he stopped attending religious gatherings, in 2017 authorities detained Emer, now in his eighties, and sentenced him to prison. The database cites four charges in various entries: "stirring up terrorism", acting as an unauthorized "wild" imam, following the strict

Saudi Wahhabi sect and conducting illegal religious teachings.

Muhammad called the charges false. Emer stopped his preaching, practiced a moderate sect of Islam and never dreamed of hurting others, let alone stirring up "terrorism," Muhammad said.

Emer's three sons, too, were all thrown in camps for religious reasons, though they weren't charged with crimes. It shows their relation to Emer and their religious background caused officials to believe they were too dangerous to let out.

"His family's religious atmosphere is thick. We recommend he (Emer) continue training," notes an entry for his youngest son, Emer Memtimin.

But it wasn't just the religious who were detained. Pharmacist Tohti Himit was detained in a camp for having gone multiple times to one of 26 "key", mostly Muslim countries, the database said. A former employee said Himit was secular, keeping his face well-shaved.

"He wasn't very pious, he didn't go to the mosque," said Habibullah, who declined to give his first name out of fear of retribution against family still in China. "I was shocked by how absurd the reasons for detention were."

The database says Himit had gone to a mosque three times in 2008, once to attend his grandfather's funeral. In 2014 he had gone to another province to get a passport and go abroad. That, the government concluded, showed Himit was "dangerous" and needed to "continue training."

Emer is now under house arrest due to health issues, Muhammad has heard. It's unclear where Emer's sons are. Though deprived of his mosque and his right to teach, Emer had quietly defied the authorities for two decades by staying true to his faith.

"He never bowed down to them — and that's why they wanted to eliminate him," Muhammad said. □





In this Feb. 13, 2020 file photo, former South African President FW de Klerk waits for President Cyril Ramaphosa to deliver his State of the Nation Address in Cape Town, South Africa.

Associated Press

## Ex-South African leader de Klerk sorry for apartheid comment

By **MOGOMOTSI MAGOME**  
Associated Press

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)** — Former South African president FW de Klerk on Monday apologized and withdrew his statement that the country's former harsh system of racial separation known as apartheid was not a crime against humanity.

De Klerk, the last president under apartheid, caused an uproar with the comment during an interview last week with state broadcaster SABC.

De Klerk announced the release of Nelson Mandela from prison 30 years ago, paving the way for the end of apartheid and South Africa's first all-race elections in 1994 that saw Mandela voted into power.

De Klerk was later awarded a Nobel Peace Prize with Mandela for their role in the country's transition.

However, de Klerk's views on apartheid have remained divisive. His latest comments came as South Africa celebrated the 30th anniversary of Mandela's release.

Fellow Nobel Peace laureate and former South Afri-

can archbishop Desmond Tutu urged de Klerk to withdraw his latest remarks.

De Klerk's foundation said it was withdrawing the statement and apologized for the "confusion, anger and hurt that it has caused."

Apartheid was declared a crime against humanity by the United Nations in 1973. The U.N. was among the organizations criticizing de Klerk for his statement.

De Klerk said he aligned himself with the Rome Statute which created the International Criminal Court and includes the crime of apartheid as a crime against humanity.

"It can also be seen as the legislative expression of Nelson Mandela's statement during his inaugural address that 'never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another,'" de Klerk said.

An online petition led by prominent South African lawyer Dali Mpofu calling for de Klerk's Nobel Peace Prize to be withdrawn had received more than 10,000 signatures by Monday afternoon. □



Yemeni Shiite fighters stand guard during a protest against U.S. President Donald Trump's Mideast plan in Sanaa, Yemen, Friday, Jan. 31, 2020.

Associated Press

## UN: Warring parties in Yemen agree on major prisoner trade

By **SAMY MAGDY**  
Associated Press

**CAIRO (AP)** — Yemen's warring sides have agreed to implement a long-delayed and major prisoner swap, the United Nations said on Sunday, in a sign that talks to end the disastrous war between the country's internationally recognized government and its Houthi rebels could be making progress.

It would be the "first official large-scale" exchange of its kind since the beginning of the conflict in the Arab World's poorest country, according to the U.N.

The prisoner swap deal was seen as a breakthrough during 2018 peace talks in Sweden. The Houthis and the internationally recognized government agreed then to several confidence-building measures, including a cease-fire in the strategic port city of Hodeida. Implementation of the tentative peace plan stumbled amid ongoing military offensives and a deep-seated distrust between the two sides.

The conflict also has been a theater for the regional rivalry between Iran, which backs the Houthi rebels, and Saudi Arabia, which leads a military coalition supporting the internationally recognized Yemeni

government.

The U.N. mission in Yemen said that both the rebels and Yemeni government had decided to "immediately begin with exchanging the lists for the upcoming release" of prisoners. Sunday's statement came after seven days of meetings between the two sides in Jordan's capital, Amman.

"Today the parties showed us that even with the growing challenges on the ground, the confidence they have been building can still yield positive results," the U.N. envoy Martin Griffiths said.

The U.N. mission did not disclose specific numbers for the expected prisoner exchange.

Abdul-Qader al-Murtaza, a rebel official in charge of prisoners' affairs, said in a tweet that the first phase of the deal includes the release of more than 1,400 prisoners from the two sides. He said talks would continue for another two days to "prepare and revise the final lists."

The talks were co-chaired by Griffiths' office and the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC. Representatives from the Saudi-led coalition also attended the talks, the U.N. said.

Griffiths urged both parties

to move forward with the agreed-upon prisoner exchange "with the utmost sense of urgency." He did not elaborate when they would start the exchange. Franz Rauchenstein, the head of the ICRC in Yemen's capital, Sanaa, welcomed the step as "encouraging."

"Today, despite ongoing clashes, we saw that the parties have found common humanitarian ground that will allow many detainees to return to their loved ones," Rauchenstein said.

The war in Yemen has also spawned the world's worst humanitarian crisis, leaving millions suffering from food and medical shortages. It has killed over 100,000 people, including fighters and civilians, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, which tracks violence reports in Yemen.

Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdel-Salam said Saudi and Sudanese prisoners would be included in the release from his side. The Saudi-led coalition has brought into Yemen Sudanese fighters on its side.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammed Abdullah al-Hadrami said he welcomed the "phased agreement" to release prisoners, in a tweet Sunday. □





# Killing of 7-year-old girl stokes anger in Mexico

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — The killing of a 7-year-old girl on the southern outskirts of Mexico City has stoked rising anger over brutal slayings of women, including one found stabbed to death and skinned earlier this month.

The city prosecutor's office said Monday that investigators identified a body found over the weekend as that of Fatima, a grade-school student who was taken by a stranger on Feb. 11. By law, prosecutors don't give the full name of victims.

Her body was found wrapped in a bag and abandoned in a rural area on Saturday and was identified by genetic testing. The cause of death has not been released. Five people have been questioned in the case, and video footage of her abduction exists.

Prosecutors' spokesman Ulises Lara offered a \$100,000 reward for information on the person who picked her up when she left school.

Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum personally accompanied the girl's mother during the legal



Neighbors hold a banner that reads in Spanish "Not one less. Justice for Fatima" as they block the street near the Enrique C. Rebsamen primary school to protest the kidnapping and murder of a 7-year-old girl, in Mexico City, Monday, Feb. 17, 2020.

Associated Press

paperwork involved in filing charges and picking up the girl's body. "We are going to accompany the family, and justice must be done," Sheinbaum said.

The girl's mother, Maria Magdalena Antón, appeared angry and distraught outside prosecutors' offices. "Justice has to be done, for my daughter and for all women," she said.

She said investigators

made the family wait hours and travel across the city to even file a missing person report. Other relatives accused police of not acting quickly enough.

"She could have been found alive, but nobody paid attention to us," said Sonia López, the girl's aunt. López also said there had been longstanding questions about the mother's ability to care for her children, but that city health

and family welfare agencies had not helped them. Many relatives and commentators called for urgent changes to primary school safety protocols. At government schools in urban areas of Mexico, children simply walk out on the street after classes end. Although their parents are often waiting outside, it is not the school's responsibility to make sure someone is waiting to meet them.

The abduction and killing of the child-year-old came just two days after Ingrid Escamilla, a young Mexico City resident, was allegedly murdered by a boyfriend.

The man, who has been arrested and purportedly confessed to killing Escamilla with a knife, mutilated her body and flushed part of her corpse into the sewer.

Indignation grew after some local media published horrific photos of the skinned corpse, apparently leaked by city police officers.

Protesters read a statement Friday saying, "It enrages us how Ingrid was killed, and how the media put her body on display."

The Mexican capital has seen a series of angry demonstrations over killings of women over the past few months, including several in which protesters have vandalized major monuments and buildings.

The killings have proved a politically difficult issue for President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who said protests over the killings were an attempt to distract attention from his social programs. □



A member of the Bolivarian National Militia brandishes a rifle during an invasion drill in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020.

Associated press

**By JORGE RUEDA and MATIAS DELACROIX**

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)** — Venezuela's armed forces and civilian militias took the streets in cities, beaches and border regions on Saturday for drills ordered by President Nicolás Maduro, amid tensions between Washington and Caracas. Despite the maneuvers,

there are no indications that the U.S. plans any military intervention in Venezuela. Washington has focused on political and diplomatic pressure in its efforts to oust Maduro, only saying last year that it had not ruled out a military option.

Maduro called for the exercises as he comes under

## Denouncing U.S., Venezuelan troops, militias stage drills

pressure from the U.S. and dozens of other nations backing a year-long campaign by opposition leader Juan Guaidó to force the leader from power.

Residents in a pro-Maduro slum in Caracas participated in the exercises. They included a growing number of civilian militia members recruited by a cash-starved government that is struggling to keep Venezuela's shattered economy afloat. "I answered the call to help prepare for our defense because my country, my homeland, is under threat from the U.S. empire," said militia member Pablo Antonio Reyes, a 63-year-old electronics technician.

Militiamen and govern-

ment supporters dressed in red shirts held combat drills on streets blocked off by city buses. They evacuated residents from buildings as tires burned on rooftops to simulate fires from attacks. "The purpose of this exercise is to keep us prepared," said militia member Carmen Ferrer, 50. Maduro said that the two-day maneuvers were aimed at fending off "terrorist aggression" by Washington and its allies in the region including neighboring Colombia.

The Venezuelan military, which has received Russian support, deployed missile launchers, anti-aircraft batteries and radars in the streets. The government

seeks to boost militia ranks, filled out by the old and young, housewives and students.

Guaidó, who launched a campaign a year ago to end two decades of socialist rule, on Saturday called on the armed forces to abandon Maduro's failed leadership and help him reconstruct a new Venezuela. His previous appeals to the military to change sides have fallen short.

"We are with you," he said, lamenting the condition of what he called "malnourished soldiers" in Venezuela's once-proud military. A relatively small number of Venezuelan troops have defected in the past year. □



# LOCAL



## It's Carnival!

**ORANJESTAD —** While the official opening of the carnival season took off with the Torch Parade on January 4, the island caught the carnival fever and since then entered a series of carnival events that go on until February 25th.

The island is known for its white-sanded beaches and perfect climate, but there is one time in the year that Aruba draws thousands of visitors: carnival. If you have never been here before, come in carnival season as your experience will be amazing. Sensational musical events, queen elections and different parades are all part of this spectacular phenomenon. Carnival is part of Aruba's history and cultural heritage, actually it is the largest cultural festival on the island. For the islanders it is a way to express their creativity and break away from the daily buzz of life. Dancing to the rhythm of local mu-

sic while enjoying the ambiance of the public are some of the ingredients of this festival. Oranjestad and San Nicolas are the stages for this display of unique designed costumes, amazing ambience and up-beat, local music. The festival is for everybody accessible and safe to visit. Behind the screens there is an enormous organization that makes sure that this festival runs smoothly. The police, inspection department, Red Cross volunteers, garbage service and many others work day and night to make sure that carnival is a success. All the trailers are being carefully inspected before they are allowed to participate as well as the vehicles that pull them. After each parade the streets are being cleaned and road blocks are being taken away so next day normal traffic flow occurs. The several organizations and institutions work together with the official carnival organization SMAC.



Aruba Today has put some of the coming carnival events for you in a row:

Feb 20	8:00 PM - 2:00 AM	Lightning Parade	San Nicolas
Feb 22	11:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Grand Carnival Parade	San Nicolas
Feb 23	11:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Grand Carnival Parade	Oranjestad

For more information you can visit Facebook page **SMAC**, the official carnival organization. □

## They come for the beach and the food

**EAGLE BEACH —** Jonathan Boekhoudt of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a to-

ken of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The lovely couple **Anita and Hans Gottschalk** from New Jersey were recently honored as Distinguished Visitors due to their 10th consecu-

tive visit to Aruba. The Gottschalk's loves coming to the island for the friendly and happy people, beautiful beaches and delicious food the island has to offer.

Boekhoudt together with Ewald Biemans, General Manager of

Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort presented the honorees with the honorary title, handed over some presents and also thanked this lovely couple for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □







Article by Etnia Nativa

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## Ancient power tools: the Shamans stick and staff

Episode 57- LVII

**ORANJESTAD —** The Shamans stick or wand is a thin, light-weight rod that is held with one hand, and is traditionally made of wood, bone or antlers, but may also be made of other materials, such as metal or stone or anything that can be made into a stick. A wand that is used for magical purposes is often called a magic or shamans stick, rather than simply a stick.



Pic 1. Artistic interpretation of an Shamans stick. Etnia Nativa collection

The stick is an extension of our own energies, amplifying and extending those energies for psychic communication, healing, enchantments, protection and energy balancing. In the shaman's world, all things have a spirit and everything is alive.

Shamans sticks serves a similar purpose to athames (ritual daggers), though the two objects have their distinct uses: An athame is used to command, whereas a stick is seen as more gentle, and is used to invite or encourage.

The most common misconception about the Shamans stick is that it is a fire tool. The stick in principal is actually an air tool that it is made out of wood, which burns easily when in contact with fire energies. While popular movies, such as Harry Potter, often portray the stick as a multi-purpose tool that can handle air and fire energies, it is actually the Athame, or magical knife, that can handle multiple types of energy.

Modern shamanic and esoteric practices include the use of a ritual stick. The stick is an instrument of invocation of spirits and serves primarily to direct spiritual energy. Healing energy can be mentally transmitted through the stick and out into the environment or into a patient's body. Prayer and intention can be broadcast to the spirit world. It may serve as a divination tool, extraction aide, and purifying device.

The Shamans stick or wand dates back to prehistoric times. Some of

the first depictions of a stick comes from Egypt, in the hands of the Pharaohs. The Greek god Hermes is depicted with a caduceus, a winged stick or staff with two snakes coiled around it. In Celtic mythology, the so-called "Triple" or "Triadic" Goddesses are often seen or depicted with sticks.

Sticks should be made from the limbs of a living tree or recently fallen from a living tree, preferably of a light-colored wood, since air colors are clear, white and sky blue. The limb should be between 1/4 and 3/8 inch, and be no longer than from the bend of your elbow to the tip of your middle finger.

Longer sticks are considered as a wizard or Shamans staff. A staff serves as a tool and frequently a symbol of status and power. Some staffs are adorned with talismans and feather, carved with various patterns and designs, we find that a smooth surface with no carving produces the greatest and most effective flow of air energies. The staff is generally a highly personal piece of equipment - often one he makes for himself - and will generally reflect his personality in appearance and function. Using another wizard's staff may be dangerous or even impossible - some users believe that they are self-aware to some degree or at least highly bonded to their creator and resist strangers - although there are some stories of staves being inherited.



Pic 2. Masked Shaman's mummie with staff



Pic 3. An Athames or ritual dagger, center.

Continued on Page 15



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Subway | Juan Valdez Café  
Dunkin Donuts | Baskin-Robbins  
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TOF Twist of Flavors | Aruba Aloe  
Bijoux Turner Boutique | R-Glass  
Curated Lab | Hungry Piranha  
The Lazy Lizard | The Market  
Shalom Body & Soul Spa

**Coming Soon:** The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood and  
Shalom Hair & Nail Bar

## Ancient power tools: the Shamans stick and staff

Episode 57- LVII

Continued from Page 14

The staff may serve as a larger replacement for a stick or may be a separate tool to be used alongside it, depending on tradition. In many systems the staff serves as a magical earthling or stabilizing device or as a concentrator or reservoir for magical power. Alternatively they may serve to maintain a spell which would normally take the Shaman's own effort to prolong. In most traditions they can also serve as an extension of the Shaman's body, delivering workings that would normally require him to touch the subject.

Staves are traditionally made of wood. It may also be possible to make a staff from bone, metal or even minerals such as or composites. The materials of construction may vary depending on the type of magic the staff is to specialize in, and shaping and ornamentation may be vital magic.

Like most magical tools, your stick or staff should be "keyed" or personalized to your own energies. Keying aligns the flow of the base to tip, and ensures that only you will be able to use it. If you're a beginning practitioner, the stick is an excellent first tool, allowing you to practice the major techniques of sweeping, pulling, flowing and flaring without endangering yourself or others. □

To immerse in what Aruba is all about, its people, its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session which has been entertaining curious, scientist and bohemians for decades. Mail us at [etnianativa03@gmail.com](mailto:etnianativa03@gmail.com) to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels



Pic 4. Artistic interpretation of a Shamans staff



## Walk the Perfect Mall



**ORANJESTAD** — Aruba is hot in every sense of the word, but not just in temperature. When the sun is at its highest, you may prefer to beat the heat and escape to a comfy environment. The beach is a great option, but you have a need to shop, have a coffee, walk around, stop, try on that cute hat or buy the awesome shoes. After all of that, you crave for a cool glass of wine and a light snack just before you meet your friend for dinner. Yes, the perfect day!

Imagine doing all of this, all at one place.

**Where?**

**The perfect mall...**

Whether you're local or visitor, you just have to go to Renaissance Mall in Downtown Oranjestad.

You ask why?

Look, malls are everywhere.

But according to Quora there are three main reasons why a mall is attractive. First reason: Popular brands. Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Rolex, Prada, Dolce & Gabbana, Cartier, Chopard, CH Carolina Herrera, Michael Kors, Kate Spade are only some of the over 30 stores in this one-stop shopping Valhalla. Renaissance Mall has them all.

The second reason Quora states: recreation and comfort. Well, Renaissance Mall is covered, cool, offers clean public restrooms, is housed in an elegant building with a classy interior and invites guest to play a round at the casino upstairs. Besides that, you're in midtown, the heart of Oranjestad.

The third reason that brings the customer in: Food! Of course, we need to fuel our inner body too and Renaissance has that ready for you. Starbucks, or a super lunch at Aquarius Restaurant and finish it all off with dinner at L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House.

It's just an idea for you, but I do it.

**The Sport**

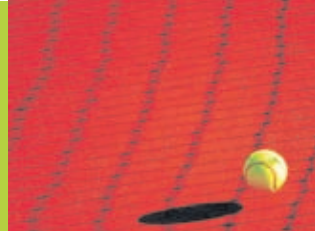
Besides the offerings of the mall, you might like the walking too. As a matter of fact Mall Walking is a sport in the United States. Yes, it may sound crazy, but people actually walk and/or jog inside malls for exercise. In our opinion a great health boost in combination with shopping. And it's even better at Renaissance Mall, where you are out of the sun and have restrooms available as well as comfy seats and benches to take a moment of rest. You've got your hat and your new pair of shoes? You drank your wine and had a wonderful steak dinner? Well now, just wander off to that sweet, soft suite at the Renaissance Hotel.

Try this Dream and... Sleep Tight. ☐





# SPORTS



In this July 1, 1961 file photo, Mickey Wright poses after winning her third Women's National Open golf championship, at the Baltusrol Golf Club at Springfield, N.J.  
Associated Press

## Mickey Wright, golf great and early LPGA force, dies at 85

By TERRY SPENCER  
FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Mickey Wright, the golf great with a magnificent swing who won 13 majors among her 82 victories and gave the fledgling LPGA a crucial lift, died Monday of a heart attack. She was 85. She had been hospitalized in Florida the last few weeks after a fall, said her lawyer, Sonia Pawluc. Wright joined the LPGA in 1955 and the Hall of Famer's 82 wins place her second on the all-time list behind Kathy Whitworth, who won 88. The Associated Press in 1999 named Wright the Female Golfer of the Century and Female Athlete of the Year in 1963 and 1964. A Golf Magazine poll of experts in 2009 called her the best female golfer ever, and men's champions Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson said Wright had the best swing they ever saw.  
Continued on page 23



# OH DENNY BOY

## Denny Hamlin wins 3rd Daytona 500 in photo finish

Denny Hamlin celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Daytona 500 auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Monday, Feb. 17, 2020, in Daytona Beach, Fla.



# Clijsters loses to Muguruza on return to WTA Tour

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — Kim Clijsters' first WTA Tour match since 2012 ended with a 6-2, 7-6 (6) loss to Garbine Muguruza at the Dubai Championships on Monday.

The 36-year-old Clijsters is making a second comeback — this time after more than seven years away from professional tennis — but was broken in the opening game against Muguruza, a fellow former No. 1.

Muguruza broke again for a 5-2 lead and was two breaks up at 3-0 in the second set before Clijsters found her stride. The Belgian leveled the set at 4-4 but Muguruza then converted her second match point in the tiebreaker.

"I had a good feeling out there," Clijsters said. "Second set, I felt I was really in the match."

The four-time Grand Slam champion announced in September that she was returning to the tour for a second time. She initially retired in 2007, got married and had the first of her three children. She returned about two years



Belgium's Kim Clijsters returns the ball to Spain's Garbine Muguruza during a match of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Monday, Feb. 17, 2020.

Associated Press

later and won her second and third U.S. Opens and an Australian Open. She retired again after the 2012 U.S. Open. "I felt like for a while I was dominating some of the points," Clijsters said about her match. "I think that's a good feeling to have, knowing the way I started the first set and then the way I was able to get back into that second set, with the type of tennis I played, it's something that is the positive about this match. I'll take that with me for the next matches."

Muguruza will play either Veronika Kudermetova or Dayana Yastremska in the next round.

"I think this is just special because I didn't know how (Clijsters was) going to play," Muguruza said. "I'm sure she's going to get better and better, for sure, give us a lot of trouble."

Barbora Strycova and Elise Mertens also advanced. Strycova ousted Amanda Anisimova of the United States 7-6 (3), 2-6, 6-4 and Mertens eased past Wang Qiang of China 6-3, 6-0. □



In this Sept. 16, 2018, file photo, New Orleans Saints wide receiver Austin Carr, left, cannot hold on to the football as Cleveland Browns defensive back T.J. Carrie (38) defends during the first half of an NFL football game in New Orleans.

Associated Press

## Browns release veteran cornerback T.J. Carrie, 3 others

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — New Browns general manager Andrew Berry cleared \$13 million in salary-cap space Monday by releasing veteran cornerback T.J. Carrie and three other players signed by former GM John Dorsey.

Along with Carrie, Cleveland terminated the contracts of tight end Demetrius Harris, guard Eric Kush and linebacker Adarius Taylor.

Carrie is the most significant move. The versatile

29-year-old played in all 32 games over the past two seasons after being signed as a free agent. He had 125 tackles and had two interceptions and two sacks. He had two seasons remaining on his contract and was due to make \$7.25 million in salary and bonuses in 2020. Harris caught 15 passes for 149 yards and three touchdowns this past season for the Browns, making six starts. He was scheduled to make \$2.49 million in 2020. □



In this Feb. 16, 2020, photo, runners, some wearing masks, compete in a Kumamoto castle marathon in Kumamoto city, western Japan.

By **STEPHEN WADE**

**TOKYO (AP)** — Tokyo Marathon organizers drastically reduced the number of participants for this year's race on Monday out of fear of the spread of the virus coming from China.

The general public is being barred from the race on March 1. It will now be limited

to a few hundred elite participants, organizers said in a brief statement.

"We cannot continue to launch the event within the scale we originally anticipated and we regret to inform you the following: The Tokyo Marathon 2020 will be held only for the marathon elites and the wheel-

## Tokyo Marathon limited to elite runners because of virus

chair elites," organizers said. The Tokyo Marathon is the city's annual race and not to be confused with the Olympic marathon that will take place during the 2020 Tokyo Games. Those races are to be held in the northern city of Sapporo.

The marathon is the latest large sports event to be impacted by the virus. Almost all sports events in China over the next few months have been called off, including next month's world indoor track and field championships and a Formula One race in April.

The cancellations in China have a domino effect on Olympic qualifying, both in China and elsewhere, and muddle the picture for

thousands of hopeful Olympians, families, and their travel plans.

The Tokyo Marathon was expected to attract about 38,000 participants. Only one death in Japan has been attributed to the virus. The latest death toll in mainland China is 1,770.

Organizers of the Tokyo Olympics and the International Olympic Committee have said repeatedly they will not cancel or postpone the games and are following the advice of the World Health Organization.

"Certainly the advice we're receiving externally from the WHO is that there's no case for any contingency plans or cancelling the games or moving the

games," John Coates, the head of an IOC inspection team, said Friday in Tokyo.

The Olympics open on July 24 with about 11,000 athletes participating. About 7.8 million tickets are available for Olympic events, which draw hundreds of thousands of tourists. There are another 2.3 million tickets for the Paralympics.

Much of the focus is now on China. It will further intensify with the next Olympics — the 2022 Winter Games — taking place in Beijing.

The spreading virus has already forced organizers to cancel World Cup ski races this month in Yanqing, China, which were also to serve as test events. □



# Hamlin wins 3rd Daytona 500; Newman hospitalized

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— Denny Hamlin won his second straight Daytona 500 and third overall, beating Ryan Blaney in an overtime photo finish marred by a terrifying crash that sent Ryan Newman to the hospital on Monday.

Newman had surged into the lead on the final lap when Blaney's bumper caught the back of his Ford and sent Newman hard right into the wall. His car flipped, rolled, was hit on the driver's side by another car, and finally skidded across the finish line engulfed in flames.

It took several minutes for his car to be rolled back onto its wheels. The 2008 Daytona 500 winner was placed in a waiting ambulance and taken directly to a hospital, and the damage to his Mustang was extensive. It appeared the entire roll cage designed to protect his head had caved.

Drivers were stricken with concern, including a rattled Corey LaJoie, the driver who hit Newman's car as it was flipping.

"Dang I hope Newman is ok," he posted on Twitter. "That is worst case scenerio

and I had nowhere to go but (into) smoke."

Hamlin is the first driver since Sterling Marlin in 1995 to win consecutive Daytona 500s, but his celebration in victory lane was subdued.

"I think we take for granted sometimes how safe the cars are and number one, we are praying for Ryan," said Hamlin, who was unaware of Newman's situation when he initially began his celebration.

It wasn't until Fox Sports told him they would not interview him on the frontstretch after his burnouts that Hamlin learned Newman's incident was bad.

"It's a weird balance of excitement and happiness for yourself, but someone's health and their family is bigger than any win in any sport," he said. "We are just hoping for the best."

Team owner Joe Gibbs apologized after the race for the winning team celebration.

"We didn't know until victory lane," Gibbs said. "I know that for a lot of us, participating in sports and being in things where there are some risks, in a way, that's what they get excited about. Racing, we know what can happen, we just dream it doesn't happen.



Denny Hamlin, right, celebrates as he and crew members hoist the championship trophy after winning the NASCAR Daytona 500 auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Monday, Feb. 17, 2020, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

We are all just praying now for the outcome on this."

Runner-up Blaney said the way the final lap shook out, with Newman surging ahead of Hamlin, that Blaney got a push from Hamlin that locked him in behind Newman in a move of brand alliance for Ford.

"We pushed Newman there to the lead and then we got a push from the 11 ... I was committed to just pushing him to the win and

having a Ford win it and got the bumpers hooked up wrong," he said. "It looked bad."

NASCAR gave no immediate announcement on Newman's status and officials moved bystanders away from the crash scene. Hamlin had eight Ford drivers lined up behind him as the leader on the second overtime shootout without a single fellow Toyota driver in the vicinity to help him.

It allowed Newman to get past him for the lead, but the bumping in the pack led to Newman's hard turn right into the wall, followed by multiple rolls and a long skid across the finish line.

Hamlin's win last year was a 1-2-3 sweep for Joe Gibbs Racing and kicked off a yearlong company celebration in which Gibbs drivers won a record 19 races and the Cup championship. □

## Florida could extend time for NCAA on student-athlete pay

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)

— Florida lawmakers sought to delay when college athletes can begin striking endorsement deals, and agreed to extend the game clock on Monday for the NCAA on its own to address the issue of compensation for the 450,000 student athletes under its purview.

But the move did not slow the momentum that could make Florida the second state in the country — behind California — to allow student athletes to make money off their names much like professional athletes now do.

While the California law won't go into effect until 2023, the proposal in Flor-

ida would have allowed athletes from some of the country's highest profile sports programs to be the first in the country to reap the benefits of a growing movement to undo long-standing NCAA prohibitions.

If signed into law as expected, the new rules would have gone into effect July 1. But a Florida Senate committee on Monday unanimously agreed to push back that date a year, giving the collegiate body some wiggle room.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has already expressed his support for the effort. The movement has gained steam not only among lawmakers in Florida, but across several other states. As a result, the NCAA has

been under pressure to address the issue. Last year, it vowed to take up the matter but gave no definitive timeline to do so.

While there are still differing versions of the proposal, the essence of the bills would protect athletes from losing scholarships or being thrown off teams because of endorsement deals.

For years, the NCAA had argued that allowing athletes to profit from their prowess in the field or arena would do away with the distinction between amateur and professional athletes — a notion that has been increasingly dismissed by advocates who say colleges and the NCAA itself has for years profited from student athletics.

College sports generate

billions of dollars in revenue, including \$1 billion annually for the NCAA. But none of that money is allowed to go to college athletes.

Republican Sen. Rob Bradley said the legislation was long overdue, adding that advertisers and sports programs are profiting from college athletes "while the players putting themselves at risk aren't making any money."

Nevertheless, he said, the NCAA should be accorded more time to address the issue on its own.

"I'd like to see what they come up with," Bradley said.

The proposal has garnered bipartisan support in the Florida Legislature.

A similar proposal has already reached the House

floor.

Some lawmakers expressed misgivings about how quickly the NCAA will act, but agreed to give it more time.

Despite the many decades the issue has been swirling around college athletics, said Sen. Oscar Brayton, a Democrat, "they hadn't come up with anything. ... I think they've had enough time at this point."

Ever since California decided to allow college athletes to earn money off their fame, a growing number of states are looking into similar action.

Similar efforts are underway in Georgia, Maryland, New York, South Carolina and Washington, among others. Congress may also be taking up the effort. □



# Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

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Oranjestad- Renaissance Marina Downtown is home to the Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood. Herby senior and Herby Junior both share a passion and love for fishing. They know what the local waters have to offer and what fresh fish really means. Over 30 years ago, the idea for the fishing charter was born.

Captain Herby would catch the fish to be served at the restaurant the same day. That concept still lives, what is 'hooked' during the day is cooked in the evening at the restaurant. Herby shares his experience with his crew, who take out guests daily on their tournament rigged 35ft twin engine

Bertram "Driftwood" or on their more spacious 37ft twin engine Bertram called "Living Easy". Both yachts are available for charters from 8am to 12 noon, or from 1 to 5pm (6-hour trips also available). To book a fishing charter visit [www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com](http://www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com) or call Herbert direct at (297)-5924040.



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For reservations visit [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com) or call (297)-5832515

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## Kawhi Leonard wins first Kobe Bryant All-Star MVP award

By **ANDREW SELIGMAN**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Kawhi Leonard made it look effortless, nailing one 3-pointer after another and nearly matching an All-Star Game record.

The tough part came afterward. Finding the right words to express how he felt after becoming the first Kobe Bryant MVP award winner wasn't so easy.

Leonard scored 30 points and hit eight 3-pointers to lead Team LeBron to a 157-155 victory over Team Giannis on Sunday night.

He was presented the MVP trophy that the league renamed after Bryant on Saturday, three weeks after the Lakers great and his 13-year-old daughter Gianna were among the nine people killed when their helicopter crashed near Los Angeles.

"It's very special," Leonard said. "Like I said, I had a relationship with him. Words can't explain how happy I



**Kawhi Leonard of the Los Angeles Clippers holds up his NBA All-Star Game Kobe Bryant MVP Award after the NBA All-Star basketball game Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, in Chicago.**

**Associated Press**

am for it. Able to put that trophy in my room, in my trophy room, and just be able to see Kobe's name on there, it just means a lot to me. He's a big inspiration in my life. He did a lot for me."

Bryant had a huge presence over the first All-Star festivities in Chicago since 1988, when Michael Jordan

delighted the home crowd by beating Dominique Wilkins in a classic slam dunk contest and scoring 40 points to take MVP honors in the game.

There were all sorts of tributes to Bryant, his daughter and late NBA Commissioner Emeritus David Stern. But once the game started, it didn't take long for Leon-

ard to make his presence felt.

The Los Angeles Clippers star has two NBA finals MVP trophies after helping San Antonio and Toronto win championships.

He was picked for his fourth All-Star team and put on quite a display from the perimeter, knocking down 8 of 14 3-pointers.

Had he made one more, he would have matched Paul George's All-Star record set in 2016. And he appeared to be well on his way to breaking it after a scorching start.

Leonard hit one just seconds into the game. He made all four 3s in the first quarter — the only shots he took while scoring 12 points. Leonard was 7 of 10 in the first half, only to cool off a bit after that. He missed a step-back 3 that could have won it with his team up 154-153, but was the runaway winner for the game's MVP honors with

seven votes. LeBron James got three and Chicago product Anthony Davis and Chris Paul received one apiece.

All that's missing for Leonard now is the league's regular season MVP award.

"My mindset is always just to try to make my team the best team at the end of the regular season," Leonard said. "And if I'm fortunate enough to win a regular season MVP, then I'll be happy with it. I always just want to win championships. I'm not really concerned with the personal goal. So I always want to play to win championships."

Leonard could have signed with the Lakers and teamed with LeBron James and Anthony Davis with Frank Vogel coaching them after leading Toronto to the championship last season. Instead, it was a one-night-only affair, with Vogel on the sideline for Team LeBron. □



# Last shot wins: Team LeBron wins All-Star Game 157-155

By TIM REYNOLDS  
AP Basketball Writer

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Players were taking charges, bodies were hitting the floor, calls and non-calls were being screamed about on both ends. The fourth quarter of the NBA All-Star Game was as intense as the final moments of a playoff game, the biggest stars in the league holding absolutely nothing back. And in the end, Anthony Davis was a hometown hero by making a free throw.

Kobe Bryant — ever the competitor — would have simply loved the way this night went.

"That was pretty damn fun," a sweat-soaked, exhausted LeBron James said at the end.

Davis made a game-ending free throw to give Team LeBron a 157-155 win over Team Giannis in the revamped NBA All-Star Game on Sunday night, the format overhauled to put in elements for charity and ensure that someone was going to hit a shot to end the game.

That someone was Davis, the Chicago native who missed the first free throw and made the second to end the NBA's midseason showcase that went down as the closest All-Star Game since the Eastern Conference topped the Western Conference 141-139 in 2010.

Kawhi Leonard, the game's MVP and the first recipient of the trophy now named for Bryant, scored 30 points for Team LeBron, while James — his team's captain — and Chris Paul each scored 23, and Davis finished with 20.

"This one's for him," Leonard said, speaking of Bryant afterward.

Giannis Antetokounmpo, who captained his team, led his squad with 25 points, Kemba Walker had 23 for Team Giannis, Joel Embiid scored 22 and Rudy Gobert added 21.

"I think it was really interesting," said Team Giannis coach Nick Nurse of the NBA champion Toronto Raptors. "It was really fun,



LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers celebrates with James Harden of the Houston Rockets and Kawhi Leonard of the Los Angeles Clippers during the second half of the NBA All-Star basketball game Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, in Chicago.

Associated Press

each and every quarter, from a coaching standpoint."

The finish was frantic, and then some. James tried a layup that would have put his team one point away — it was blocked by Antetokounmpo, called a goaltend at first but ruled a clean block after review. Team LeBron controlled the resulting jump ball and James tried a 40-footer to end it but missed.

James Harden then had a chance to win it for Team LeBron, and his 3-pointer went in — but it was waved off by Kyle Lowry taking a charge against the NBA's scoring leader. James got a dunk not long afterward to make it 156-153, and Embiid made two free throws to cut Team LeBron's lead to one.

With that, it was next-basket-wins time.

"Really cool," Nurse said.

Davis was fouled on the next trip, got the free throw to win it, and that was that. "I told my team I was going to miss the first one to put a little more pressure on myself here at home," Davis said.

James' team wore blue jerseys, all with the No. 2 for Gianna Bryant. Ante-

tokounmpo's team wore red, every player wearing No. 24 on the back for Kobe Bryant. And on their right shoulders was a black circular patch with nine stars, one for each victim of the helicopter crash that took the lives of Bryant, his daughter and their seven friends on Jan. 26.

"His presence was felt," James said.

And with the new rules, the teams went at it in the fourth: Antetokounmpo got out to block a shot by James, Lowry took a

charge from his former Toronto teammate in Leonard, elbows got up in collisions for rebound positioning, Paul was screaming encouragement to Team LeBron teammates in a time-out — all adding up to an intensity hardly ever seen in All-Star Games.

"To me, probably the best All-Star game ever," Embiid said. "Guys competed, it came down to basically the last shot, but I don't think you should be able to win on a free throw. But overall it was a lot of fun."

It was the first All-Star Game with a new format: The teams played a mini-game in each of the first three quarters, the scores starting at 0-0 in each of those periods and the winning team in each one earning \$100,000 for their Chicago-area children's charity.

James' team won the first quarter 53-41, Antetokounmpo's team won the second quarter 51-30.

The third quarter had down-to-the-wire, big-money drama with \$100,000 on the line. But the teams finished the quarter tied 41-41, putting \$300,000 — the undecided \$100,000 from the third and \$200,000 more for the win — at stake in the final period.

The cumulative score at that point was Team Giannis 133, Team LeBron 124 going into the untimed fourth quarter — with another new twist. The NBA decided, as part of the series of Bryant tributes, that the winner of the All-Star Game would be the team that added 24 points, a nod to his jersey number, to whatever the leading total score was after three quarters.

That meant the target score was set: 157. The game clock was off. The shot clock stayed on. The stage for drama was perfectly set, and the All-Star Game — oft-maligned in recent years for a lack of competitiveness — was entertaining again. □

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# NHL-best Bruins beat Rangers 3-1 for 9th win in 10 games

By The Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Charlie McAvoy, Charlie Coyle and Patrice Bergeron scored, and the NHL-leading Boston Bruins began a four-game road trip with a 3-1 win against the New York Rangers on Sunday. Jaroslav Halak made 25 saves as Boston picked up its ninth win in 10 games. Mika Zibanejad scored for the Rangers, but their four-game winning streak was snapped. Alexandar Georgiev made his third start in a row for New York and had 31 saves.

Coyle scored the winner with a short-handed goal at 18:42 of the second period. The forward stole a puck from Jacob Trouba at the blue line, then outskated everyone on the ice before converting a breakaway for his 14th of the season.

## PREDATORS 2, BLUES 1

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — Kyle Turris scored with 2:12 left and Nashville beat St. Louis to take the season series from the defending Stanley Cup champs.

Nashville improved to 13-11-4 at home, where the Predators have struggled all season. They now have won seven of their last 10, climbing within a point of the Western Conference's second wild card.

Craig Smith also scored for Nashville, his sixth in five games.

Pekka Rinne, pulled from his previous start Monday in Vancouver, made 38 saves for the win. Rinne had 14 stops in the third period.

Tyler Bozak scored for the first-place Blues, and Jordan Binnington finished with 22 saves.

St. Louis managed only one point in four games against Nashville this season, a shootout loss on Nov.



Boston Bruins goaltender Jaroslav Halak (41) celebrates with teammates after defeating the New York Rangers in an NHL hockey game, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Associated Press

25. The Blues have lost four straight and are 2-7-3 over their last 12 games.

## PENGUINS 5, RED WINGS 1

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Patric Hornqvist had two goals and an assist as Pittsburgh defeated Detroit.

Hornqvist has 14 goals this season. Sidney Crosby scored his 11th, Kris Letang added his 14th on the power play and Sam Lafferty also scored for the Penguins, who moved within one point of first-place Washington in the Metropolitan Division.

Crosby extended his point streak to four games. He has six goals and 19 points in 12 games since returning from core muscle surgery on Jan. 14.

Matt Murray made 27 saves for Pittsburgh, which has won 11 of 15.

Valtteri Filppula scored his fifth of the season for Detroit, which lost its fourth straight game. The Red Wings have been outscored 16-5 in their past four games and 59-23 in their last 16. Detroit has lost 14 of 16.

## OILERS 4, HURRICANES 3, OT

**RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)** — Josh Archibald scored his second goal of the game in overtime, NHL points leader Leon Draisaitl had a goal and two assists, and Edmonton edged Carolina. Draisaitl set up Archibald's

goal 3:57 into overtime for his 95th point of the season. Kailer Yamamoto also scored for the Oilers, and Mike Smith made 28 saves. Sebastian Aho had two goals and an assist for the Hurricanes, including a tying goal with 5:02 left in the third period. Trevor van Riemsdyk scored his first of the season 12 seconds in, and James Reimer stopped 20 shots.

Edmonton is 3-1 without injured star Connor McDavid.

## DUCKS 5, CANUCKS 1

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)** — Adam Henrique scored twice, Derek Grant had a goal and an assist, and Anaheim beat Vancouver.

Brendan Guhle and Sam Steel also scored for the Ducks, who have wins in two of their last three games.

The Ducks scored twice on the power play after going 1 for 21 with the extra man over their previous eight games. Anaheim was coming off a 6-0 loss to Calgary at home Thursday night.

Elias Pettersson scored for the Canucks, who ended a two-game winning streak and are 2-4-1 in their last seven games.

The loss left the Canucks one point behind first-place Edmonton in the Pacific Division and one point ahead of Vegas. The Ducks remain

11 points out of a playoff spot.

Anaheim goaltender John Gibson made 37 saves. Vancouver's Thatcher Demko stopped 23 shots.

## DEVILS 4, BLUE JACKETS 3, SO

**NEWARK, N.J. (AP)** — Mackenzie Blackwood made a career-high 52 saves and stopped six of seven attempts in the shootout to lead New Jersey over scuffling Columbus.

Nikita Gusev and Jesper Bratt scored in the tiebreaker for New Jersey, which beat the Blue Jackets for the first time in 10 meetings. The previous Devils victory over Columbus came in December 2017.

Pierre-Luc Dubois had the only shootout goal for the Blue Jackets, who dropped to 0-2-3 in their last five games.

Joey Anderson, Nicholas Merkley and Kyle Palmieri scored for the Devils in regulation.

Andrew Peeke, Zach Werenski and Kevin Stenlund provided the goals for the Blue Jackets. Elvis Merzlikins stopped 23 shots in losing his second straight.

## SENATORS 4, STARS 3, OT

**OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)** — Artem Anisimov scored at 3:48 of overtime to lift Ottawa over Dallas.

Jean-Gabriel Pageau, Brady Tkachuk and Tyler

Ennis also scored for the Senators. Craig Anderson stopped 36 shots.

John Klingberg, Stephen Johns and Joe Pavelski scored for the Stars. Anton Khudobin made 42 saves as Dallas finished a 2-0-1 road trip.

## SABRES 5, MAPLE LEAFS 2

**BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)** — Jack Eichel scored the tiebreaker in the third period as part of a three-goal surge over 91 seconds that carried Buffalo past Toronto.

Johan Larsson had a goal and an assist, and defensemen Rasmus Ristolainen and Colin Miller had two assists each for the Sabres. Conor Sheary, Jimmy Vesey and Kyle Okposo also scored, and Buffalo won its third consecutive game.

Carter Hutton stopped 20 shots to win his fourth straight and fifth in six starts. Zach Hyman scored for the Maple Leafs, as did Egor Korshkov in his NHL debut. Frederik Anderson finished with 31 saves in losing his second start since missing four games with a neck injury.

Toronto dropped to 7-7-3 since a 9-0-1 run.

## JETS 3, BLACKHAWKS 2

**WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP)** — Nathan Beaulieu's first goal of the season early in the third period sent Winnipeg past Chicago.

Playing in his 27th game of an injury-riddled campaign, the defenseman fired a one-timer from the point that hit a Blackhawks player and got by goalie Corey Crawford to give the Jets a 3-2 lead. Beaulieu also had an assist.

Mason Appleton had a goal and an assist and Jack Roslovic also scored for Winnipeg, which was coming off two straight losses. Dmitry Kulikov added a pair of assists.

Connor Hellebuyck made 31 saves for the Jets (30-25-5), who are 3-2-0 on a six-game homestand.

Patrick Kane had a goal and an assist and Ryan Carpenter also scored for the Blackhawks. Crawford stopped 35 shots for Chicago (26-25-8), which completed a 1-4-0 trip. □





# Mike Trout rips cheating Astros, calls for bigger punishment

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Mike Trout thinks the Houston Astros should pay more dearly for their cheating ways.

The Los Angeles Angels' three-time AL MVP ripped the Astros and questioned the discipline handed out by Major League Baseball on Monday after he reported to spring training. Trout joined the chorus of prominent big leaguers angry about Houston's rampant sign stealing on its way to the 2017 World Series title and beyond.

"It's sad for baseball," he said. "It's tough. They cheated. I don't agree with the punishments, the players not getting anything. It was a player-driven thing. It sucks, too, because guys' careers have been affected. A lot of people lost jobs. It was tough."

"Me going up to the plate knowing what was coming? It would be fun up there. A lot of guys lost re-

spect for some of the guys." Trout said a few members of the Astros reached out to him during the offseason to explain their side, but Trout didn't sound impressed.

"You don't know what helped them or what not," he said. "But if you know what's coming, it's going to definitely help them. I don't know if you take the trophy away or take the rings away, but they should definitely do something."

Trout doesn't remember hearing the Astros banging on trash cans at Minute Maid Park during his nine big league seasons, all with the Angels in the AL West.

"I noticed the banging off the bat from center field," Trout said. "It just feels like they weren't missing pitches. It's frustrating, because you have guys coming in here battling every day and working on stuff. ... I can't imagine what the pitchers feel like. It's a mental game. You go in a stretch where you're do-

ing good, and you go into Houston and get banged up, it could mentally drain you."

Trout didn't make a suggestion for what the Astros players' punishment should have been, but the scandal obviously touched a nerve in the Angels' brilliant center fielder, who has spent his entire career trying to outwit the Astros.

"Obviously the GM got fired and Hinch got fired," Trout said of punishments for Jeff Luhnow and manager AJ Hinch. "But the players getting nothing, that's definitely not right, for sure."

"I think everybody wants it to be a clean, level playing field," Trout added. "I didn't know it wasn't until this stuff came out, and then you realize when we played at them at (Houston) or whatever, they were hitting a lot of balls. They've got a lot of great players over there for sure, but it was something different."

Anthony Rendon also re-



Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout, left, and Shohei Ohtani watch batting practice during spring training baseball practice, Monday, Feb. 17, 2020, in Tempe, Ariz.

Associated Press

Continued from page 17

"She was the best I've ever seen, man or woman," Whitworth told espnW.com in 2015. "I've had the privilege of playing with Sam Snead and Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer and all of them. And some of our ladies had wonderful swings. But nobody hit it like Mickey, just nobody."

Mary Kathryn Wright was born in San Diego on Feb. 14, 1935. She started playing golf seriously at age 11 and in 1952 at 17 won the USGA Girls' Junior Championship. In 1954, she won the World Amateur.

She studied psychology for a year at Stanford before dropping out in 1955 to pursue a professional golf career.

"I've earned my own version of a master's degree in psychology in study and experience, trial and error, on golf courses throughout the United States. For psychology ... is as integral a part of good golf as an efficient swing," she said, according to the World Golf Hall of Fame. She was inducted in 1976.

Her first tournament win

came in 1956 in Jacksonville, Florida, and by 1961 she was dominating the tour, winning at least 10 tournaments annually from 1961 to 1964. Among her major wins were four U.S. Opens and four LPGA Championships.

Wright retired from the tour in 1969 because of foot issues and mental fatigue: she was the biggest draw on the LPGA Tour and played constantly to help it thrive.

"It was a lot of pressure to be in contention week after week for five or six years," Wright told Golf World in 2000. "I guess they call it burnout now, but it wore me out. Unless you're a golfer, you can't understand the tension and pressure of tournament play. And it was the expectations: It was always, 'What's wrong with your game? 'Are you coming apart?' Second or third isn't bad, but it feels bad when you've won 44 tournaments in four years." Whitworth said her friend and rival had to play almost every week for the tour to survive.

"Sponsors threatened to



In this 1967 file photo, the gallery follows Mickey Wright's iron shot from the fairway at the Toronto Golf Club.

Associated Press

cancel their tournaments if she didn't play. And, knowing that if they canceled, the rest of us wouldn't be able to play, Mickey would always play," Whitworth said.

Wright's last tournament victory came four years after leaving the tour, the 1973 Colgate-Dinah Shore Winner's Circle. That was before that tournament was considered a major. Wright moved to Stuart, Florida, in 1974, where she lived the rest of her life. She

survived breast cancer in 2007. The Stuart News in 2012 said Wright spent most days gardening, fishing and playing the stock market and crossword puzzles. For golf, she hit wedges off a practice mat on her patio onto the 14th fairway of an adjoining club.

When she donated 200 items to the United States Golf Association in 2012, she said she hated giving up that mat. The course ranger gave her a new one. □

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## Zuckerberg meets EU officials as bloc's new tech rules loom

By **KELVIN CHAN**  
**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg met top European Union officials on a visit to Brussels on Monday, days before the bloc is expected to release new proposals on regulating artificial intelligence.

The billionaire social network founder is the latest U.S. tech executive to make the trip to the headquarters of the EU, which is becoming an increasingly important player in technology regulation. Zuckerberg's visit came as the company warned that potential regulation risked stifling innovation.

Zuckerberg met Margrethe Vestager, the EU's powerful executive vice president in charge of making Europe "fit for the digital age." He also had audiences with Thierry Breton, commissioner for the internal market, and Vera Jourova, vice president for values and transparency.

Vestager is set on Wednesday to release the first draft of the EU's proposed regulations on artificial intelligence, including facial recognition, and a digital strategy, which could have major implications for tech giants such as Facebook, Google and Apple.

The EU has already pioneered strict data privacy rules and issued multibillion-



**Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, center, is greeted by European Commissioner for Values and Transparency Vera Jourova, left, prior to a meeting at EU headquarters in Brussels, Monday, Feb. 17, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

dollar antitrust fines against the likes of Google.

In an op-ed published in the Financial Times, Zuckerberg said big tech companies such as Facebook need closer government supervision.

"I believe good regulation may hurt Facebook's business in the near term but it will be better for everyone, including us, over the long term," he wrote. He said new rules should be clear and balanced and it shouldn't be left up to individual companies to set their own standards.

Also Monday, Facebook released a "white paper" on content regulation outlining challenges and principles for authorities to consider when drawing up new rules on how to deal with harmful material such

as child sexual exploitation or terrorist recruitment.

Well-designed frameworks for regulating harmful content can outline clear ways for governments, companies, and civil society to share responsibilities and work together, the company said. "Designed poorly, these efforts risk unintended consequences that might make people less safe online, stifle expression and slow innovation."

Facebook said tech companies shouldn't be punished for publishing illegal speech, because it would be impractical to require internet platforms to approve each post. "Retrofitting the rules that regulate online speech for the online world may be insufficient. New frameworks are needed," the paper said. □

## MIT: Hackers could alter ballots in widely used voting app

**CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)**

— An internet voting app that has been used in pilots in West Virginia, Denver, Oregon and Utah has vulnerabilities that could allow hackers to change a person's vote without detection, according to researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The analysis of the Voatz app, which has mostly been used for absentee voters and overseas military personnel, found that attackers could "alter, stop or expose how an individual has voted."

Voting security experts have long argued that online voting is dangerously insecure.

"We all have an interest in increasing access to the ballot, but in order to maintain trust in our elections system, we must assure that voting systems meet the high technical and operation security standards before they are put in the field," Daniel Weitzner, an MIT scientist who oversaw the report, said Thursday. The researchers said they were forced to reverse engineer an Android version of the app because Voatz hasn't allowed transparent third-party testing of the system.

Boston-based Voatz disput-

ed the research methods, issuing a statement that said the analysts used an old version of the app and accused them of acting in "bad faith." The company noted it hasn't had any reported issues in its counting of less than 600 votes over nine pilot elections.

Although few voters are expected to cast ballots on such apps in the coming election, the report casts a harsh light on the looming proposition of online voting. In 2018, Alaska explored using an online voting system but shuttered the program because of security concerns.

To some experts, a study finding holes in a smartphone voting app wasn't a shock.

"Not to in any way diminish this (excellent) work, but the fact that an online mobile voting scheme has serious security flaws is ultimately unsurprising," tweeted Matt Blaze, a professor of computer science and law at Georgetown University. "Every serious expert has warned against Internet voting."

Voatz was used in West Virginia's 2018 elections, but state officials were quick to point out that it counted fewer than 200 ballots and had no reported problems. □



# Liz Weston: Beware of these overhyped financial strategies

By **LIZ WESTON** of NerdWallet

A good rule of thumb when you're trying to eat healthy is to beware of any food you see advertised. The most beneficial fare — whole grains, fruits, vegetables — tends not to have a marketing budget.

Similarly, investments that are enthusiastically pushed by commission-earning salespeople may not be the best for your financial health. Before you buy any of the following, you'd be smart to investigate lower-cost alternatives and to consult an objective, knowledgeable third party, such as a fee-only financial planner.

## EQUITY-INDEXED ANNUITIES

Equity-indexed annuities are insurance products that base their returns on stock market benchmarks. They're often promoted as a way to benefit from stock market gains while being protected from losses.

But the contracts typically limit how much investors get when the stock market rises, says certified financial planner Anthony Jones of Groveport, Ohio. Two clients, who had purchased equity-indexed annuities before joining his firm, received only a fraction of last year's 30% increase (as measured by the Standard & Poor's 500 benchmark).

"They expected bigger returns in 2019 and were very disappointed," Jones says. "They each had less than a 3% return."

Equity-indexed annuities typically come with high commissions and surrender charges that can make it expensive to get your money out, says CFP Scott A. Bishop of Houston. The contracts can be extremely complex, and many buyers don't understand what they're getting, he says.

"They are not necessarily bad products, but they are really more like bond alternatives than stock alternatives," Bishop says.

## REVERSE MORTGAGES

Reverse mortgages allow homeowners 62 and older to convert some of their home equity into a lump sum, a series of monthly

checks or a line of credit. Borrowers don't have to make payments on the loan, which doesn't have to be paid back until they die, sell or move.

But borrowers don't always realize that their debt is accruing monthly interest. The amount they owe may grow so high they no longer have any equity in their homes, says Barbara Jones, an attorney with the AARP Foundation.

Reverse mortgages typically aren't a good fit for people who may need to rely on their equity for future expenses, such as medical bills or nursing home care. Reverse mortgages could be a way to avoid foreclosure if a homeowner can't afford to make payments on a regular mortgage, Jones says. There may be no equity left for their heirs, "but at least the person gets to age in place," Jones says.

## NON-TRADED REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Real estate investment trusts allow people to invest in commercial real estate without having to buy and manage the properties themselves. Most REITs are publicly traded so it's easy to buy and sell them.

Non-traded REITs also invest in real estate but are designed to reduce or eliminate taxes. The trade-off is that your money could be locked up for years. Also, non-traded REITs tend to have high upfront fees that reduce the return on your investment. "Non-traded REITs make my heart sink when I see them in a new client's portfolio," says CFP Jonathan P. Bednar of Knoxville, Tennessee. "These are very complex products, with high fees, and often-times not the greatest-quality underlying holding." Bednar prefers that clients own investments they can easily sell if needed, such as an exchange-traded fund that invests in real estate.

## CASH-VALUE LIFE INSURANCE

Cash-value life insurance combines a death benefit with an investment component. (Whole life, universal

life and variable life policies are all types of cash-value life insurance.) Sometimes the policies are promoted as a tax-efficient way to invest for high earners who have maxed out their other retirement savings options, says CFP Alex Caswell of San Francisco.

But the premiums aren't deductible, and the policies tend to have high costs, Caswell says. Many investors have better alternatives, such as using a tax-efficient investment strategy in a regular brokerage account, he says.

Also, premiums for cash-value policies tend to be much higher than premiums for the same amount of term insurance, which has a death benefit but no investment component. The higher premiums can lead buyers to skimp on coverage or to drop the policy because it's too expensive. And sometimes policies are sold to people who don't need life insurance at all, such as single people with no financial dependents, says CFP Tess Zigo of Lisle, Illinois.

Zigo says the higher com-



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

Associated Press

missions paid by cash-value policies can lead insurance agents to recommend them even when there are

better alternatives.

"If all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail," Zigo says. □

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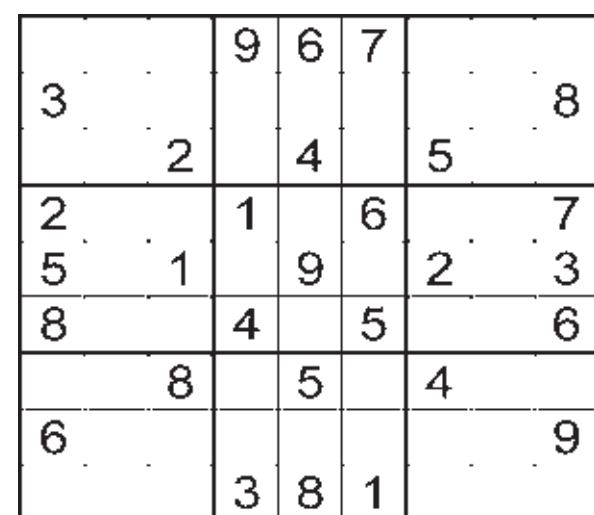


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## Conceptis Sudoku



318

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

A SIMPLE CHART OF THE  
THOUGHTS THAT GET  
TRAPPED IN MY HAIR.

Yesterday's nuzzle answer

9	7	8	1	4	2	3	5	6
1	3	2	6	9	5	8	4	7
6	4	5	3	7	8	2	1	9
3	8	1	9	2	4	6	7	5
4	9	7	5	3	6	1	2	8
2	5	6	7	8	1	4	9	3
5	1	4	8	6	7	9	3	2
8	2	3	4	5	9	7	6	1
7	6	9	2	1	3	5	8	4

OH BOY, HERE COMES SOME-BODY NOW!!!

YOUNG GOD INVENTS THE WATER BUFFALO

**Panel 1:** A woman with dark hair and a headband looks excited. She says, "GUYS! BIG NEWS!" Two young boys, one with glasses, look up at her with wide eyes.

**Panel 2:** The woman is smiling broadly and gesturing. She says, "I'M STARTING A YOUTUBE CHANNEL ABOUT MY PARENTING EXPERIENCES!" The boy with glasses asks, "WHO'S GOING TO WATCH THAT?"

**Panel 3:** The woman looks thoughtful. She says, "IT COULD TOTALLY WORK. THE BITTER MOM DEMOGRAPHIC IS HUGE." The two boys look at each other with skeptical expressions.

**Panel 4:** The woman has a sardonic expression. She says, "I'M NOT BITTER! I'M SARDONIC!" The two boys look on with their mouths open.

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PERMISSION TO USE THE RESTROOM?

NOT DURING A TEST.

OH, RIGHT.

PERMISSION TO EXPLODE?

PERMISSION TO MOVE OUT OF RANGE FIRST?

SCOTT ADAMS

**ACROSS**

- ACROSS  
1 As the flies  
directly  
5 Throws  
12 Bench piece  
14 Truck  
15 Keats or  
Wordsworth  
15 Explorer Marco  
17 or Wode not  
chen  
18 Submission to a  
publisher  
20 Letter from  
Greece  
21 Muscovy jobs  
22 Dishwasher cycle  
23 Steel hoop  
solar  
25 Beer carrier  
26 Tussock marine  
mammal  
28 Seaside  
31 Pres. John  
Quincy  
32 In lowering  
34 Polish upper-  
middle classes

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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31					32	33					34		35	
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39				40						41				
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47	48	49					50					51	52	53
54					55	56					57			
58					59						60			
61					62						63			

Created by Ingrid van E. Mathewson

21/8/20

### Monday's Puzzle Solved

3	Movie back-
4	Tiny
5	Newspaper
6	Old saying
7	Items for
8	Univ. in Nashv.
9	Now, 1 horneer
10	Bits of parsley
11	Cut of pork
12	Heir's setting
13	Carryall
14	Dairy product
15	Large ante-opes
16	Strong...oures
17	Nut

S	T	E	W		E	L	K	S		C	H	O
N	I	X	E	d		L	E	A	P		H	O
I	R	A	T	E		I	G	N	O	R	A	N
P	E	G		L	E	I	T		T	I	N	K
		G	E	E	S	E			L	O	G	
S	C	E	N	T	S			D	E	T	E	S
N	E	A	V	E		C	L	A	S	S	P	R
A	D	A	Y		J	O	I	N	S		G	R
P	A	T		S	O	L	V	E		S	L	I
		R	E	E	C	H	O			C	H	E
		R	A	N			C	L	A	N	G	
I	D	L	E	R	S			H	U	R	T	U
R	E	I	N	F	O	R	C	E		K	N	I
K	E	N	O		N	O	S	E		S	A	M
S	P	E	W		S	T	I	R		R	E	

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1.420

- DOWN

- 1 Cut short  
2 Tr's

- |                                   |                           |                              |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 27 Worship                        | 36 Heavy rock             | 49 Baker's need              |
| 28 Nat' King                      | 40 Songbirds              | 50 Ladder rung               |
| 29 Cause of a rocky<br>plane ride | 41 Soughl damages<br>horn | 52 Become dizzy              |
| 30 Salesman's pitch               | 43 Angry speech           | 53 National League<br>seat   |
| 32 Cause of distress              | 44 Pac:                   | 55 Upper limit               |
| 33 Drag around                    | 45 Bird's sound           | 56 "Grand Opry"              |
| 35 Pull in order                  | 47 Obstacle               | 57 Die away or<br>Karakashan |
| 57 as a button                    | 48 African nation         |                              |



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ground floor building C

16 weeks remain

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3 rd floor building

27 weeks remain

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studio wk 5,6,7,8,9

Birdie 9 on 3 rd floor

top floor 38 weeks on each

\$10 K each

#### Divi Link Golf

1 BR Wk 6 \$8K Birdie 1

19 weeks remain

Studio wk 7/8

Birdie 5 \$7,5 K each

27/29 weeks remain

#### Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 8/9

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# NASA's space snowman reveals secrets: few craters, no water

By **MARCIA DUNN**

**AP Aerospace Writer**

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.**

**(AP)** — NASA's space snowman is revealing fresh secrets from its home far beyond Pluto.

More than a year after its close encounter with the snowman-shaped object, the New Horizons spacecraft is still sending back data from more than 4 billion miles (6.4 billion kilometers) away.

"The data rate is painfully slow from so far away," said Will Grundy of Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, one of the lead authors.

Astronomers reported Thursday that this pristine, primordial cosmic body now called Arrokoth — the most distant object ever explored — is relatively smooth with far fewer craters than expected. It's also entirely ultrared, or highly reflective, which is commonplace in the faraway Twilight Zone of our solar system known as the Kuiper Belt.

Grundy said in an email that to the human eye, Arrokoth would look less red and more dark brown, sort of like molasses. The reddish color is indicative of organic molecules.

While frozen methane is present, no water has yet been found on the body,



**This Jan. 1, 2019 image from NASA shows Arrokoth, the farthest, most primitive object in the Solar System ever to be visited by a spacecraft.**

**Associated Press**

which is an estimated 22 miles (36 kilometers) long tip to tip. At a news conference Thursday in Seattle, New Horizons' chief scientist Alan Stern of Southwest Research Institute said its size

was roughly that of the city. As for the snowman shape, it's not nearly as flat on the backside as previously thought. Neither the small nor big sphere is fully round, but far from the flatter

pancake shape scientists reported a year ago. The research team likened the somewhat flattened spherical forms to the shape of M&Ms.

No rings or satellites have been found. The light cratering suggests Arrokoth dates back to the formation of the solar system 4.5 billion years ago. It likely was created by a slow, gentle merger between two separate objects that possibly were an orbiting pair. The resulting fused body is considered a contact binary.

This kind of slow-motion hookup likely arose from collapsing clouds in the solar nebula, as opposed to intense collisions theorized to form these planetesimals, or little orbiting bodies.

New Horizons flew past Arrokoth on Jan. 1, 2019, more than three years after the spacecraft visited Pluto. Originally nicknamed Ultima Thule, the object received its official name in November; Arrokoth means sky in the language of the Native American Powhatan people.

Launched in 2006, the spacecraft is now 316 million miles (509 million kilometers) beyond Arrokoth. The research team is looking for other potential tar-

gets to investigate. Powerful ground telescopes still under construction will help survey this part of the sky.

Emerging technology will enable scientists to develop a mission that could put a spacecraft in orbit around Pluto, 3 billion miles (5 billion kilometers) away, according to Stern. After a few years, that same spacecraft could be sent even deeper into the Kuiper Belt to check out other dwarf planets and objects, he said.

The New Horizons scientists reported their latest findings at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, as well as in three separate papers in the journal Science.

David Jewitt of the University of California, Los Angeles, who was not involved in the studies, said a flyby mission like New Horizons, where encounters last just a few days, is hardly ideal.

"For future missions, we need to be able to send spacecraft to the Kuiper Belt and keep them there" in orbit around objects, Jewitt wrote in a companion piece in Science. That would allow "these intriguing bodies to be studied in stunning geological and geophysical detail," he noted. □



**In this undated file photo, a lonely penguin appears in Antarctica during the southern hemisphere's summer season.**

**Associated Press**

## UN: Antarctic high temp records will take months to verify

**BERLIN (AP)** — Record high temperatures reportedly measured in Antarctica will take months to verify, the U.N. weather agency said Sunday.

A spokesman for the World Meteorological Organization said the measurements made by researchers from Argentina and Brazil earlier this month have to undergo a formal process to ensure that they meet international standards.

"A formal decision on whether or not this is a record is likely to be several months away," said Jonathan Fowler, the WMO spokesman.

Scientists at an Argentine

research base measured a temperature of 18.3 degrees Celsius (nearly 65 degrees Fahrenheit) Feb. 6 on a peninsula that juts out from Antarctica toward the southern tip of South America. The previous record there was 17.5 degrees Celsius (63.5 degrees Fahrenheit) in March 2015.

Last week, researchers from Brazil claimed to have measured temperatures of 20.75 degrees Celsius on an island off the peninsula — beating the record for the entire Antarctic region of 19.8 Celsius in January 1982. Fowler said both of the new measurements would need to be transmit-

ted to Prof. Randall Cerverny, a researcher at Arizona State University who examines reported temperature records for WMO.

Cerverny then shares the data with a wider group of scientists who "will carefully evaluate the available evidence (including comparisons to surrounding stations) and debate the merits and problems of the observation," said Fowler.

The evaluation normally takes six to nine months, after which Cerverny would "formally either accept or reject the potential extreme," giving official WMO approval to the new record, he said. □

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# National Black News Channel makes debut

By **BRENDAN FARRINGTON**  
**Associated Press**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)** — Former U.S. Rep. J.C. Watts was beaming like a proud parent as he talked about the launch of Black News Channel — a project he's worked on for years to create what's now the nation's only 24-hour news network aimed at African Americans.

He was sitting at the network's Tallahassee studio with Gary Wordlaw, head of news and programming, watching a countdown clock as the network prepared to go live.

"I was sitting there leaning forward looking at the screen, and Gary goes, 'OK, in about two minutes we're going to see if this baby comes out.' And sure enough it did," Watts said in an interview at the studio. "We birthed a child on Feb. 10 at 6 a.m. Eastern Standard Time -- a healthy child -- and now we have to nurture it on to adulthood."

The goal of the network is to reach black audiences with stories that give a broader perspective about their community than what other networks provide. That could include health issues unique to African Americans, discussions

about historically black colleges and universities, how federal housing policy proposal could affect them or just simply making people aware of positive accomplishments African-Americans are achieving, Watt said.

"We are more than athletes and entertainers, and on the hard news side, we're more than crime," said Watts, who was a star quarterback at the University of Oklahoma in the 1980s and later played in the Canadian Football League. "For every 17-year-old African American male that you show me that's being carted off in handcuffs on the 10 o'clock news ... I can show you 50 17-year-old African American males that get up every morning trying to figure out, 'How am I going to make my mother proud of me.' That's the story doesn't get told enough." Other channels focused on African American audiences, such as BET and TVOne, have had news programming but haven't concentrated solely on news.

Watts serves as chairman of the network, and it's a project that he's worked on for years. It received a lift when billionaire businessman and Jacksonville Jag-



In this Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020, photo, Black News Channel Chairman J.C. Watts discusses the launch of the nation's only 24-hour news network during an interview in Tallahassee, Fla.

uars owner Shad Khan provided the capital to get the channel on air. While Khan hasn't disclosed how large a check he's writing, he has said it's enough support to keep it alive for years.

While there were some glitches that kept the network from being seen in all the markets it was hoping to reach during the first week launch, Watts said those problems will be resolved. The network has or is working on agreements with cable, satellite and television streaming companies and

expects to soon be available in more than 100 million households.

Watts said he hopes that it isn't just African-Americans that tune in.

"For anyone who wants to have a deeper relationship, a deeper understanding of the African-American community, I think we can be helpful," Watts said. The network has about 60 employees at its home in Florida's capital city, and has bureaus around the country with plans to have a staff of about 100 nation-

ally.

A recent look at the network showed stories ranging from an investigative piece on whether a major credit reporting company has an algorithm that gives blacks lower credit scores, to a look at privacy concerns on dating apps. And like other networks, it covers weather, sports and entertainment.

And Watts, a father of six, smiled when asked what the viewers saw when his new baby was born.

"Later in the day I went around to staff saying, 'This will be a trivia question: What's the first story ever aired on the Black News Channel?'"

There's a two part answer. The first image was a photo of the National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, D.C. Watts, a Republican, teamed up with civil rights leader and Democratic Rep. John Lewis to pass legislation to create the museum.

The first story was about the Academy Awards the night before. "The first thing out of the box was the picture of the African-American Museum, and 15 seconds later it was programming —the Oscars," Watts said. □

## Museum's Rembrandt knockoff turns out to be the real thing

**ALLENTOWN, Pa. (Associated Press)**

Thanks to modern technology and some expert detective work, a nearly 400-year-old painting that had long been attributed to an unknown artist in Rembrandt's workshop has now been judged to have been a work of the Dutch master himself.

For decades, the Allentown Art Museum displayed an oil-on-oak panel painting called "Portrait of a Young Woman" and credited it to "Studio of Rembrandt." Two years ago, the painting was sent to New York University for conservation and cleaning.

There, conservators began removing layers of overpainting and dark, thick varnish that had been added over centuries — and they began to suspect

Rembrandt himself was responsible for the original, delicate brushwork underneath.

"Our painting had numerous layers of varnish and that really obscured what you could see of the original brushwork, as well as the original color," said Elaine Mehalakes, vice president of curatorial affairs at the Allentown Art Museum.

Conservators used a variety of tools, including X-ray, infrared and electron microscopy, to bolster the case that it was the work of one of the most important and revered artists in history.

The scientific analysis "showed brushwork, and a liveliness to that brushwork, that is quite consistent with other works by Rembrandt," said Shan Kuang,



This photo combo provided by Allentown Art Museum shows from left, before and after restoration of a painting called "Portrait of a Young Woman."

a conservator at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts who restored "Portrait of a Young Woman."

Outside experts who examined the 1632 painting after the completion of its two-year restoration concurred with the NYU assess-

ment that it's an authentic Rembrandt.

"We're very thrilled and excited," Mehalakes said. "The painting has this incredible glow to it now that it just didn't have before. You can really connect with the portrait in the

way I think the artist meant you to."

When "Portrait of a Young Woman" was bequeathed to the museum in 1961, it was considered to be a Rembrandt. About a decade later, a group of experts determined that it had been painted by one of his assistants. Such changes in attribution are not unusual: Over the centuries, as many as 688 and as few as 265 paintings have been credited to the artist, according to Mehalakes. The museum has not had the painting appraised — and has no intention of selling it — but authenticated works by Rembrandt have fetched tens of millions of dollars. The painting, currently in the museum's vault, will go on public display starting June 7. □





This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Sonic, voiced by Ben Schwartz, in a scene from "Sonic the Hedgehog." (Paramount Pictures/Sega of America via AP)

## Review: Why wait? 'Sonic the Hedgehog' worth rushing to see

By **MARK KENNEDY** Associated Press

If the Hollywood mantra for making blockbusters is "faster, faster, faster," then the creators of "Sonic the Hedgehog" have wisely ignored it.

The little blue alien who can sprint quicker than the speed of light has ironically benefited from slowing it down, taking a pit stop to retool and emerge this month as a total crowd-pleaser.

Respectful of the rich history of the brand and yet welcoming to newcomers, "Sonic the Hedgehog" is a feel-good buddy movie for both adults and their own little aliens. "Nailed it!" screams Sonic at one point and that might be a fitting summary for the film.

Director Jeff Fowler has been entrusted on his feature film debut with bringing to life the ball of super CGI energy, whose origins lie in Sega video games. But things didn't look too good when a trailer dropped last April that portrayed Sonic as more rat-like with creepy human teeth. . An outcry led to the film being delayed for a reset, resulting in a Sonic with a sleeker design, larger eyes and fewer chompers.

While there's no way to give a side-by-side comparison, the film that emerges portrays Sonic as a cute, naive teenager, prone to saying very 2020 things like "I am living my best life" and "I can't with that guy." He has fled his own planet with a warning to "never stop running" and a twist on the "Spider-Man" proverb: "With great power comes great power-hungry bad guys."

In the script by Pat Casey and Josh Miller, Sonic is

naturally attracted to fast things — "Flash" comic books and the movie "Speed" (Keanu Reeves is "a natural treasure," declares our heroic blue guy, one of many lines that will go over your little ones' heads.)

Reeves isn't the only celebrity to get a shout-out: Vin Diesel, Will Smith and Obi-Wan Kenobi are all invoked for laughs. Amazon and Olive Garden also get some love. There's a weird urban-versus-rural tension throughout, with the scriptwriters clearly putting their fingers on the scale against life in the big city. One great sequence ends with everyone agreeing on a common enemy: hipsters. The plot isn't too far from the classic "ET" or the more modern "Bumblebee" — an alien lands on Earth to hide and soon must team up with a kindly human (James Marsden, in a very Marsden groove) to escape the clutches of evil government scientists who want to dissect it.

In this case, Jim Carrey dons a Civil War mustache and a black full-length leather coat to play the baddie Dr. Robotnik as only he can — ultra-arch, absolutely unhinged and dangerously unpredictable. "You know what I love about machines? They do what they're told," he snarls. Carrey has his own insane dance sequence that will make you spit out your popcorn.

Sonic, voiced by Ben Schwartz, is sweet and funny and self-aware. He does The Floss.

He farts. He wears gloves, socks and sneakers but points out "I'm not even wearing pants." He discovers what a bucket list is

and instantly wants to do all kinds of stuff, including start a bar fight. "You two are so cute," a woman tells Marsden and Sonic. They protest: They're loose cannons. (OK, very cute loose cannons).

The non-human one goes fast, to be sure. A radar gun clocks him at 300 mph but later in the film he moves so fast he stops time, zipping around while everyone is as still as a statue. The filmmakers have also added an excellent, propulsive soundtrack, which includes X Ambassadors, Queen and the Wiz Khalifa-led "Speed Me Up." (Steal it for your workout playlist.)

There are references to the video game throughout, including a sequence in which Dr. Robotnik chases Sonic through Paris, up the Egyptian pyramids, and along the Great Wall of China. Green Hill is where the creature ends up on Earth — echoing a key level in the game — and we learn he hates mushrooms, a frequent Sonic touchstone.

So much thought has been put into the film that at the very beginning the Paramount logo substitutes its regular stars for Sonic's golden rings. A potential sequel is set-up during the end credits — as well as the glimpse of a familiar creature that fans are sure to get excited about. The filmmakers might not have rushed making this film, but that's no reason for you to press the brakes now.

"Sonic the Hedgehog," a Paramount Pictures release, is rated PG for action, some violence, rude humor and brief mild language. Running time: 99 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four. □

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MON-THU	4:20   6:45   9:10
FRI	4:20   6:45   9:10   11:35
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## New exhibit examines ballet's lasting influence on fashion

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A crowning jewel of the new exhibit at the Fashion Institute of Technology is a feathered white tutu. It may look, to the untrained eye, like any ballet costume. It is, however, anything but.

Worn by the iconic Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova in her most famous role, the Dying Swan, the tutu contains 1,537 feathers. Curators at the Museum at FIT know this because the feathers had to be counted to get the tutu through the permit process to arrive in the United States, from Britain. At FIT, the tutu resides in its own alarmed case with 37 screws keeping it safe and secure.

The launch this week of "Ballerina: Fashion's Modern Muse" was timed to coincide with New York Fashion Week, taking advantage of all the editors in town. But the connection is more than logistical: The exhibit argues that ballet has had a major influence on fashion both high-end and casual, starting in the early 20th century and up

to the present time.

The exhibit features 90 items, including ballet costumes, couture gowns and athletic wear, or what we today call "athleisure." Ballgowns or party dresses from top labels like Dior, Chanel and Lanvin are displayed along with the ballet costumes that inspired them.

To Patricia Mears, curator of the exhibit and deputy director of the Museum at FIT, ballet's influence is "everywhere." "So (if) you're looking at a formal gown made out of silk tulle that is covered with spangles and has a satin bodice, immediately you think of a ballerina's tutu," Mears says. "If you look at the flat ballet slipper, millions of women wear that kind of shoe today. And then the leotard, the leggings ... all these things have found their way into fashion. It's ubiquitous." While ballet's popularity dipped somewhat at the end of the 20th century, Mears feels it's gained considerable ground over the past decade, partly due to the popularity of



This photo provided by The Museum at FIT shows the "Dying Swan" tutu, head piece, and pointe shoes worn by iconic Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova, that are part of the new exhibit at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York.

"Black Swan," the 2010 film that won Natalie Portman an Oscar, and partly due to the use of social media by dancers to connect with audiences. Some dancers have become familiar cultural figures (none more than Misty Copeland, for example, who has crossed over into mainstream stardom.)

And fashion has played a role in the phenomenon, argues Mears: "The collaboration between high-end designers and ballet companies has been a really important force in making this change as well." The most obvious example: New York City Ballet, which has contributed nine costumes to the exhibit, including the late costume designer Karinska's famous tutus from "Jewels" by George Balanchine, and a 2012 costume for "Symphony in C" by current NYCB costume director Marc Happel. The company's annual fall fashion gala brings in noted designers to create costumes for new ballets every year. □

## He's still standing: Elton John to finish Down Under tour

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)** — Elton John intends to play his remaining shows in New Zealand and Australia, his tour promoters said Monday, a day after illness caused the singer to lose his voice and cut short a performance.

Video clips posted online by fans at Sunday night's performance showed John breaking down in tears as he told the cheering crowd he couldn't go on any longer. The 72-year-old singer said he had walking pneumonia and was assisted off stage. Tour promoters Chugg Entertainment said John was resting and doctors were confident he would recover. They said a concert planned for Tuesday in Auckland would be delayed until Wednesday on the advice of doctors.

"Elton John was disappointed and deeply upset at having to end his Auck-

land concert early last night," the promoters said in their statement.

The concert was part of John's Farewell Yellow Brick Road tour. As well as the delayed performance on Wednesday, John is scheduled to play again in Auckland on Thursday and then seven performances in Australia before traveling to the U.S. and Canada.

He thanked the concert attendees via an Instagram post and apologized for ending the show early.

"I want to thank everyone who attended tonight's gig in Auckland. I was diagnosed with walking pneumonia earlier today, but I was determined to give you the best show humanly possible," John wrote. "I played and sang my heart out, until my voice could sing no more. I'm disappointed, deeply upset and sorry. I gave it all I had."



FILE - In this Jan. 5, 2020 file photo, Elton John arrives at the 77th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, in Beverly Hills, Calif. Associated Press

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said she watched the show and got to meet John for about five minutes before he started playing.

"You could tell that he wasn't feeling well and he said he wasn't feeling well," Ardern said. "So I think you could see that on

the stage last night, which I think is just a credit to his commitment to his fans." Ardern said the pair discussed politics and how her toddler daughter Neve loves to dance to his music. John has previously expressed his admiration for the New Zealand leader. The New Zealand Herald

reported that John told the crowd he was ill but that he didn't want to miss the show. He slumped on a stool and required medical attention after performing "Someone Saved My Life Tonight," but recovered and continued to play, the newspaper reported. Later, as he attempted to sing "Daniel," he realized he had no voice left and was escorted off stage. John had just returned to New Zealand after performing at the Academy Awards in Los Angeles. He won an Oscar for best original song for his theme song for the movie "Rocketman." According to the Mayo Clinic, walking pneumonia is an informal term for a milder form of pneumonia that isn't severe enough to require hospitalization or bed rest. It affects the respiratory tract and is most often caused by bacteria. □



# 5 things I learned from binge-reading a 50-book crime series

By **SOPHIA ROSENBAUM Associated Press**

The "In Death" series is far from light reading. It centers around the life of Eve Dallas, a no-nonsense New York City police lieutenant. She's a homicide cop, so there is murder in every book.

J.D. Robb is the pen name for the prolific romance writer Nora Roberts, who started writing the series in 1995 and releases at least two new titles a year.

In the very first book, "Naked in Death," we are introduced to a slew of what become recurring characters: Eve's former partner and trainer, who becomes a father figure; the esteemed police commander; the maternal staff psychiatrist; Eve's criminal-turned-singer bestie; and most importantly, Roarke.

The sexual tension leaps off the page when Eve meets Roarke, who is rich, handsome and happens to be her prime suspect. Eve's moral code is black and white, which causes friction throughout the series with Roarke, who becomes her husband by the fourth book.

Roberts spends a lot of time building layer upon layer of intimacy into their relationship, so their partnership is believable while still being the epitome of #couple-goals. Their relationship is one of the things I loved most about the series, and miss most now that I'm caught up.

So what happens when you plunge into a 50-book series? Here are five things



This combination of book cover images shows 50 volumes of the "In Death" crime series written by J.D. Robb, a pseudonym used by author Nora Roberts. Robb's latest book, "Golden in Death," was released on February 4. (Berkley/St. Martin's Press via AP)

I learned:

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE ESCAPING INTO A GOOD BOOK ... OR 50

I lost touch with reading for a good chunk of my 20s. I blamed it on school, and then on my job. But getting back into a reading routine has done wonders for my life, and my brain. Reading requires undivided attention. You can't really read a book while you're texting someone or scrolling through Instagram or participating in any bad habits you're trying to kick.

About 10 books in, when I noticed I was starting to rip through a book a day, I started wondering: Was reading this much another bad habit?

Nervously, I asked my therapist about this obsession, admitting that most of my free time was spent escaping into Eve's world. My therapist said something like, "Of the compulsive habits to have, this seems relatively harmless, and maybe you really need it. It's only a problem if you start turning down social interactions or find it is interfering with your daily life."

I've always been inclined to binge. The medium doesn't matter — TV show,

book, podcast — once I'm hooked, I need to know everything. Like that time I watched the entirety of "Gilmore Girls" in two months.

I read these books everywhere I went, using peripheral vision as I walked through the corridor to my office every morning, narrowly avoiding running into people. I would sneak in five minutes when the subway was delayed. I'd curl up on the couch with my cat on a rainy afternoon, fall asleep most nights with a book in my hand, read on the beach on vacation. After meeting a colleague for the first time recently, she said, "You're the book woman. It's so good to finally meet you."

Crazy book lady, at your service.

YOU CAN, IN FACT, READ TOO MUCH

At 29, I'm not old, but I somewhat comically injured myself at least twice while reading the "In Death" series.

The first happened about 10 books in, when I got the strangest pain in my left pinky. It was particularly present when I would type; it felt like my finger had done one too many crunches. I

was in the middle of reading when I said to my partner, "I can't figure out why my pinky hurts so much." He casually suggested it might have something to do with my new reading obsession, but I shot that down, feeling defensive.

I did notice, however, that I was holding the book like a martini glass, pinky out. Within days of changing my grip, the pain went away. Then, toward the end of the book series, my right eye started twitching for about a week and a half. I was embarrassed, and Googled what might be the cause. Sure, I drank the occasional caffeinated tea, I probably could have gotten more sleep and I am almost always stressed. But about two days after I finished book No. 50, my eye twitch went away.

LIBRARIES ARE CANDY SHOPS FOR ADULTS

Rediscovering the library has been one of my favorite things about reading this series. I can't explain the excitement I would feel when I got an email notifying me that my books had come in and were ready for pickup. I loved going to get them and finding them bound together with a rub-

ber band and marked with my initials. I would sometimes giggle when I placed a stack of 10 books on the scanner and it somehow correctly checked out all the right titles.

I only bought one book, in a moment of weakness over Labor Day weekend when I realized the library was going to be closed for four days and I hadn't ordered the next few books in time.

After that, I ordered them five or 10 at a time at the library.

It turns out I'm not the only one who loves the library. A recent Gallup poll found that Americans visited the library more frequently than the movie theater in 2019.

I AM NOT A COP, BUT I FELT LIKE I STARTED THINKING LIKE ONE

When you spend hours a day reading police procedurals, you start thinking like a cop, or at least how I imagine a cop thinks. I began paying more attention to details.

Looking at people on the subway, I would think about how I would describe them if I were called as a witness — their dimensions, physical attributes, clothing, tendencies — and then test myself when I got home to see if I remembered.

I'd pay attention to license plates of passing cars, though I never was able to remember those.

FICTION IS NOT REALITY

Over the summer, a homeless man killed four people as they slept on the streets of New York City. Telling my partner about it, I started describing what would happen if this was Eve's case. "I think you have a problem," he replied.

There was a particularly meta moment when I was reading a book that featured characters going to the Oscars because a movie about one of Eve's cases was nominated. Later that evening, I tuned into the Golden Globes and couldn't help but make comparisons between fiction and reality. If only "The Icové Agenda" (from Robb's "Origin in Death") won instead of "1917" □

